

Britain refuses to sign single currency deal

Dutch hopes collapse over summit treaty

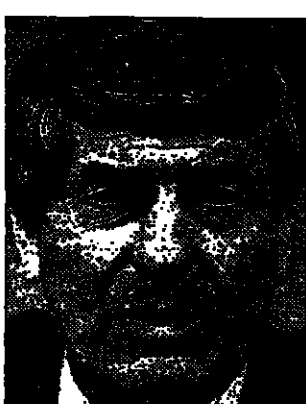
By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Maastricht summit is unlikely to achieve any binding commitment to either political or economic union, it emerged yesterday as negotiations continued on new European treaties due to be signed in six weeks.

Britain said it would not sign a declaration committing the EC to a swift transition to a single currency, even though the new draft treaty on economic union received a warmer reception than most observers had predicted.

Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister who holds the Community presidency, also accepted that the summit would probably not lead to any definitive treaty on political union and said it should instead aim for a "work programme" for the 1990s.

Downing Street dismissed the declaration on a single currency, which governments are being asked to sign alongside the treaty on economic and monetary union, as "not worth much diplomatic effort". But Norman Lamont told cabinet colleagues yes-



Lubbers: aiming for a 1990s "work programme"

terday that good progress had been made on the treaty itself. The Treasury was yesterday still digesting the 87-page document and the first definitive reaction is unlikely to come before the Chancellor's Mansion House speech tomorrow, but intense negotiating since the Luxembourg summit in the summer has seen Britain establish several key points.

The draft treaty confirms that there will be no "imposition" of a single currency, which remains several years down the track. Parliament will decide both whether and when Britain should participate, and there will have to be considerable convergence of the varied EC economies before EMU can become a reality. However, Douglas Hurd said of the draft: "There are four or five chapters where a great deal of work needs to be done, and where gaps are still quite wide. We will work hard to bridge those gaps."

Jacques Delors, presidential of the European Commission and architect of the definitive report on monetary union four years ago, made no public comment on the draft treaty yesterday, to the surprise of the Dutch government which was braced for a hostile reaction. M Delors and govern-

ments that have argued for a rapid, binding timetable for currency merger have been disappointed that the latest draft extends the "opt-out" clause to all 12 states.

Their greatest fear is that Germany, its western economy weakened by resuscitating the east, might drop out of EMU in several years' time - which would make currency union impossible this century. An aide to M Delors said: "If you widen the exemption, then you totally change the nature of the whole thing."

Although the treaty foresees great future extensions of the Community's power to watch over and control national economies, the long sequence of convergence that is supposed to end with the switch to the ecu and a European central bank is now cast as an experiment. The key question is whether Germany, which is wary of sacrificing a strong national currency for the unproven ecu, will take the crucial step.

The Germans are likely to be even more reluctant to do so in the absence of firm moves towards a more federal Europe with a common defence policy. Mr Lubbers yesterday expressed particular doubt about whether that would be achievable at Maastricht. He told the European Institute in Florence that Nato must remain the most important defence organisation, saying he thought more time was needed to reconcile the different proposals for EC defence.

Mr Lubbers said it would be better to review the situation later rather than to insist on settling everything in Maastricht, and the Community should look again at the consequences of the end of the cold war for the concept of neutrality. Explaining why he wanted to pursue more modest goals than a full union treaty, he said that "not

everything is clear in our minds" of what needed to be done for political union, including such questions as how the principle of subsidiarity would work. He also said the limits of sovereignty must be made clear. He thought the "institutional balance of the community had not yet been fully worked out".

A three-hour session at Downing Street involving most of the cabinet on Monday concentrated on the tactics to be adopted on political union topics. Britain is against introducing common defence and foreign policies and is also concerned about the extension of majority voting and about giving the European Parliament more power.

There will be a Commons debate before Maastricht, in which the prime minister is expected to speak, but there will be no white paper setting out Britain's views on treaty options. Nor will there be any referendum later on the Maastricht package. Downing Street is arguing that since the battle is about preserving parliamentary sovereignty, the calling of a referendum would be a contradiction of the whole policy.

If Maastricht does disintegrate without definitive programmes on economic or political unions, the whole matter will be passed on to inexperienced Portugal, which takes over the EC presidency in January for the first time since it joined the Community in 1986. The Portuguese had hoped that they would inherit a re-ordered EC and that they would simply implement the movement to a single market. If the Lisbon summit still fails to sort out the future direction of the Community, the problem will be inherited by Britain, which takes over the presidency in July.

Defence pledge, page 12
Leading article, page 17



Partners again: Presidents Bush and Gorbachev preparing to face the photographers in Madrid yesterday

Gorbachev says he is in control

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN MADRID

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday took the Western stage for the first time since the failed coup and reminded President Bush and a worldwide television audience that he was still in charge of the Soviet Union. He and Mr Bush today jointly open the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, where the chief protagonists yesterday moved towards an apparent initial accommodation.

Mr Gorbachev later held an unprecedented meeting with Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, the first ever between a Soviet and Israeli leader. After meeting Mr Gorbachev, Mr Shamir was asked whether, under pressure from all sides, he would draw red lines beyond which Israel would not go.

He told reporters: "There are no red lines and I am feeling no pressures... There is no need to harden," he said. "There is no need to moderate. I haven't any red

lines. I have one line - the line of the Land of Israel."

Faisal al-Husseini, the Palestinian leader, said Palestinians could accept interim self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories, provided this led eventually to an independent Palestine. Mr Shamir said that Israel could not wait any longer for peace, and that terrorist acts would not derail the conference.

Mr Gorbachev's declaration that he was in charge came against a background of diplomatic reports that another communist hardline coup may be attempted in Moscow this winter if the supply of basic necessities there does not improve drastically.

The chaotic situation inside the crumbling Soviet empire dominated the two-hour meeting at the Soviet

embassy. President Bush asked repeated questions about the power struggle and later appeared reassured with the answers he received. Mr Gorbachev disclosed that the breakaway Ukraine had reversed an earlier decision

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Amos Oz, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Richard Owen, page 14
Diary, page 14

Back on stage with lack of snap

AS THE post-coup President Gorbachev returned yesterday to the heady world of international diplomacy, it became clear that his foreign as well as his domestic authority has been damaged seriously by the events of the past two months. (Christopher Walker writes.)

Questions at his press conference with President Bush were dominated by the situation inside the Soviet Union rather than world events. Kremlin watchers noted that the president had lost much of his aura of confidence. "A lot of the spring has gone out of his step, and a lot of the snap," said Steve Hurst, Moscow bureau chief of Cable News Network.

"I have never seen Gorbachev with such a thin schedule... What is happening in Madrid is a sign things have changed so much, you should not call this a summit," said Yuri Rostov, the

anchorman of the newly formed Russian television channel. "You did all right... you are still a master," Mr Bush said in a well-amplified aside after the news conference. Mr Gorbachev smiled in response, but those watching took away the clear impression that whatever the personal characteristics of the men, these were no longer leaders operating on the same plane.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

DEAR VIRGINIA



Problems, problems... An agony aunt's job does not stop when she leaves the office and Virginia Ironside is no exception. But which question is she asked most often? Page 15

FIRST TIMERS



Pickwick Papers was Dickens's first novel; can *Duty Week* end the same for Helen Zahavi? The Whitbread First Novel Award candidates are assessed on Page 14

DOUBLE DIP?

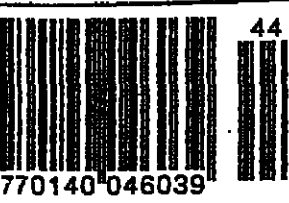


Ministers say the economy will recover, the CBI records a surge in confidence but economists fear a second recession. In today's newly expanded Business Section, Anatole Kaletsky looks at the "double dip" theory. Page 27

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in *The Times* 12-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.



Jobs under threat in BBC market

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of jobs are at risk in the BBC with the introduction of market-driven reforms intended to save it up to £50 million over the next four years in television production costs and overheads.

Under a new "internal market" scheme unveiled yesterday by Michael Checkland, the director-general, and John Birt, his deputy, all resource departments in the BBC - from studios, camera and film to makeup, scenery and graphics - will be forced to compete on price and quality against commercial rivals. From April 1993 all producers will be free to buy facilities from new BBC "business units" or from external sources, including ITV companies.

The scheme, Producer Choice, is seen as the start of the biggest shake-up in the BBC's history. Next Wednesday, the BBC will announce details of a second and more significant plan to cut excessive studio capacity, which may mean the closure of several regional studios and less programme-making at the BBC's White City television headquarters. Mr Checkland would not



put a figure on expected job losses yesterday, but broadcasting unions expect redundancies to reach four figures as they are phased in over the next few years. Mr Checkland said that Producer Choice, the result of a study carried out by Mr Birt, who is to succeed him in 1993, would give the BBC "greater scope to make quality programmes while ensuring maximum value for money".

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John Birt, page 13

Recession ending, says Lamont

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government said yesterday it was now "quite clear" that Britain was coming out of the recession, and attributed the increase in business confidence recorded in the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry to "the dramatic progress we have made in reducing inflation".

Norman Lamont, the chancellor, said there could "be little doubt that the economy is coming out of recession". Yet demand, output and employment have all fallen more sharply than the CBI's reports predicted, and yesterday's survey of 1,203 manufacturers forecast the continuing loss of 5,000 jobs a week in the sector.

The CBI said it could not say whether, as the prime minister and the chancellor have predicted, a recovery would take place in the second half of this year.

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Dubrovnik waits for siege to resume

From TIM JUDAH IN DUBROVNIK

"WHEN those chickenheads have gone, the army will begin again." That was all the thanks the team of EC monitors got from one Dubrovnik citizen after they had battled their way into "the pearl of the Adriatic".

His cynicism was partly understandable. Colonel Silvio Mazzaroli, an Italian military attaché leading the team, could find little evidence that the beautiful old quarter of the city had been devastated. There will be no graphic pictures of ancient churches pounded by mortar fire to stir the conscience of the West.

The real disaster lies elsewhere. The soldiers have laid waste everything in their path on their way to Dubrovnik. The villages around have been burnt, emptied and looted. For a month, the city has

been without running water, electricity and fresh food. Its population has been swollen by 12,000 refugees. At first glance life looks normal, but it is an illusion that quickly fades. Sobbing gently before Titian's masterpiece *The Assumption* above the altar in Dubrovnik cathedral, an old woman said: "They are selling the candles in there." A nun said that, after a month without electricity, people had come to buy the stock of candles.

Down by the seashore, families fill buckets of water for washing and laundry. In the town centre, they queue patiently for drinking water distributed by fire engine. "We have enough left for

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Vukovar bombed, page 12

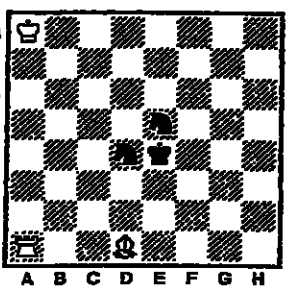
At last - white to win in 100 billion moves

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A POWERFUL computer has solved an old chess conundrum, in 100 billion moves. Using the latest type of parallel processor at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, a computer scientist has proved that a king, a rook and a bishop can get the better of the king and two knights in 223 moves.

In a real match, in which the six remaining pieces might have fallen very differently, players would long since have settled for a draw. The computer showed that on average it might take as many as 120 moves to end the game in victory for king, rook and bishop.

The problem is one of a whole series of endgames without pawns which can go on almost indefinitely. The World Chess Federation has ruled that any game is a draw if checkmate cannot be forced in 50 moves after all the pawns have gone. The success



Black in the optimum defensive position

of Mr Stiller, reported in the November edition of *Scientific American*, does more than simply resolve a question in chess. It shows the power of parallel processors to perform analyses hitherto considered too complicated for even the most powerful of computers. In a parallel processor, the electronic devices work simultaneously on different aspects of the problem, instead of in succession, one after the other. Parallel processors have more in common with the human brain, and are increasingly being applied to problems such as recognising patterns. The program succeeded because Mr Stiller was able to ensure that it did not become bogged down in communica-

tions problems while it was working. "It's very important, sort of like discovering there is a new element," according to Hans Berliner, a computer scientist from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Mr Stiller says the program can resolve a five-piece endgame in about a minute. During the Tilburg tournament now in progress, Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov reached a very similar endgame. Kasparov managed to force a draw despite having only a rook left against Karpov's two knights and a bishop. The game, however, took 10½ hours before a draw was agreed.

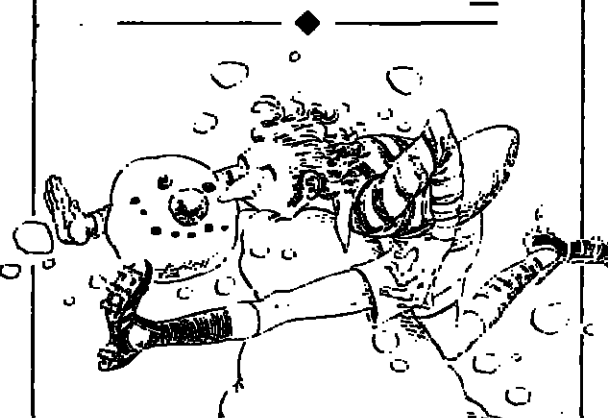
Women's champion, page 9

THE
FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

PRESENTS

Rugby

CURIOUS FACT No 6.



In the winter of 1974, a French club match saw Villiers les Nancy a clear 62 points ahead of their opponents. Villeneuve. Villeneuve however, later claimed that they were only beaten because Villiers fielded an extra man - a snowman. Built by the bored Villiers full-back, the little chap, whilst totally stationary, was still quick enough to upend one of Villeneuve's lardy wingers.

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Generals of '71 rally for renewed battle over Europe



Jenkins: Britain unable to leave Europe aside

THE European question never seems to be settled in British politics. Monday's dinner of veterans of the Commons vote 20 years ago, in favour of Britain's membership of the community, was supposed to be a sentimental celebration with speeches by the victorious generals (Edward Heath and Roy [now Lord] Jenkins) and rose-tinted memories by the ageing colonels and captains of the historic struggle. But the evening turned into a call to arms in a continuing battle.

So controversial is the issue that many current MPs preferred not to attend and be associated with the main speakers. Margaret Thatcher sent her regrets, dressed up in a reaffirmation of a Europe of

Twenty years after the vote that took Britain into the EC, the European question shows no sign of being settled, writes Peter Riddell

nation states. Only Nicholas Scott of the present administration was present, although there were several of Mr Heath's close aides (Lords Pym, Rippon and Prior) and the hard core of pro-European Tories. Roy Hattersley expressed "a general distaste for meetings of old comrades' associations".

Denis Howell was the most prominent of those Commons survivors of the 69 Labour MPs who gave Mr Heath his majority (another, Dick Douglas, is now a Scottish Nationalist). Most of the

agonising ahead of the Maastricht summit.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead argued that every party leader apart from Mr Heath had misjudged the European issue at the price of not exercising Britain's leadership role in Europe, not safeguarding British interests and not even advancing narrow party interests. The British people, he conceded, were not Euro-enthusiasts, but they were also not interested in narrow legalistic definitions of sovereignty and would respond to a strong pro-European note.

For Mr Heath, it was inconceivable that Britain should again be on the sidelines by opting out of the European Monetary Union. He blamed any disillusionment on

"members of the current government who, for 12 years, have said not a single good thing about the community".

There is the paradox that all main parties, and most voters, now support active British participation in the community, but that Britain remains a "resentful and ill-suited" member, in the words of historian David Reynolds in his new book, *Britannia Overruled*. It is partly to do with differing approaches to methods of government, but is also a reflection of Britain's desire to keep open its options about its international role.

As Lord Jenkins noted, all parties seem unable to leave aside their most divisive issue. From

1903 to 1931, Conservative governments regularly made their difficulties worse by returning again to the divisive issue of tariff reform.

In 1971, he argued that the only sensible course for Labour was to lean back in a tolerant manner and leave the Heath government to get on with the European question. But it did the reverse. Similarly, in the past few years, the Tories have found it hard to avoid stumbling on Europe. John Major is unlikely to be the last British prime minister to attempt to obscure these contradictions by compromise and fudge.

Treaty talks, page 1
Leading article, page 17

Council can borrow to offset £24m BCCI loss

By KERRY GILL

WESTERN Isles council, which lost £24 million invested with the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International in July, was last night given permission to borrow a similar amount to help it out of its immediate financial dilemma.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said it was plain that the council had to have the money to meet spending commitments this financial year, but the council would be responsible for all interest and repayments.

The borrowing, likely to be from the Public Works Loan Board, is expected to lead to about 200 council redundancies and an increase in the poll tax from £77 a head to more than £200. The council will have to find more than £3 million a year for the next 30 years to meet interest repayments.

Mr Lang said: "I am satisfied that the Western Isles council will need to borrow during the remainder of this financial year in order to adjust to the consequences of its BCCI loss. I have therefore granted the council consent to borrow up to a maximum of £24 million in the period up to March 1992."

Cutbacks of up to 12 per cent are being considered in all departments and there could be a liquidation of assets. The council has even considered selling its headquarters in Stornoway and leasing them back. Tom Carter, acting finance director, said: "If we had not got consent we would have had to regard it as a bad debt which would have been crippling."

Mr Carter, who came out of retirement to help the council, said the authority was the biggest single employer in the Western Isles, which already suffered a very poor economy.

Mr Lang added: "In reaching this decision, I am not expressing any view on the circumstances which led the council to deposit money in BCCI. I am aware that these circumstances are being investigated by the Controller of Audit and that the matter may be the subject of a report to me by the Accounts Commission in due course."

"My consent is subject to the council itself meeting the entire costs of the borrowing. The loan charges will accordingly not be taken into account in the calculation of the council's revenue support grant for 1992-93 or future years. It will be for the council itself to decide how to meet these costs."

Last night Mr Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, said that it was very disappointing that the government had not yet realised the full extent of the crisis facing the Isles.

"It is simply not good enough to give the council borrowing consent," he said. "The government must be prepared to help in a more positive way if we are to avoid massive job losses and cuts in services in months to come."

"I shall be seeking an urgent meeting with the Scottish office at which I hope to present a petition from the people of the Western Isles

SFO accused, page 23

Sir Leslie Martin wins top Riba prize

By JOHN YOUNG

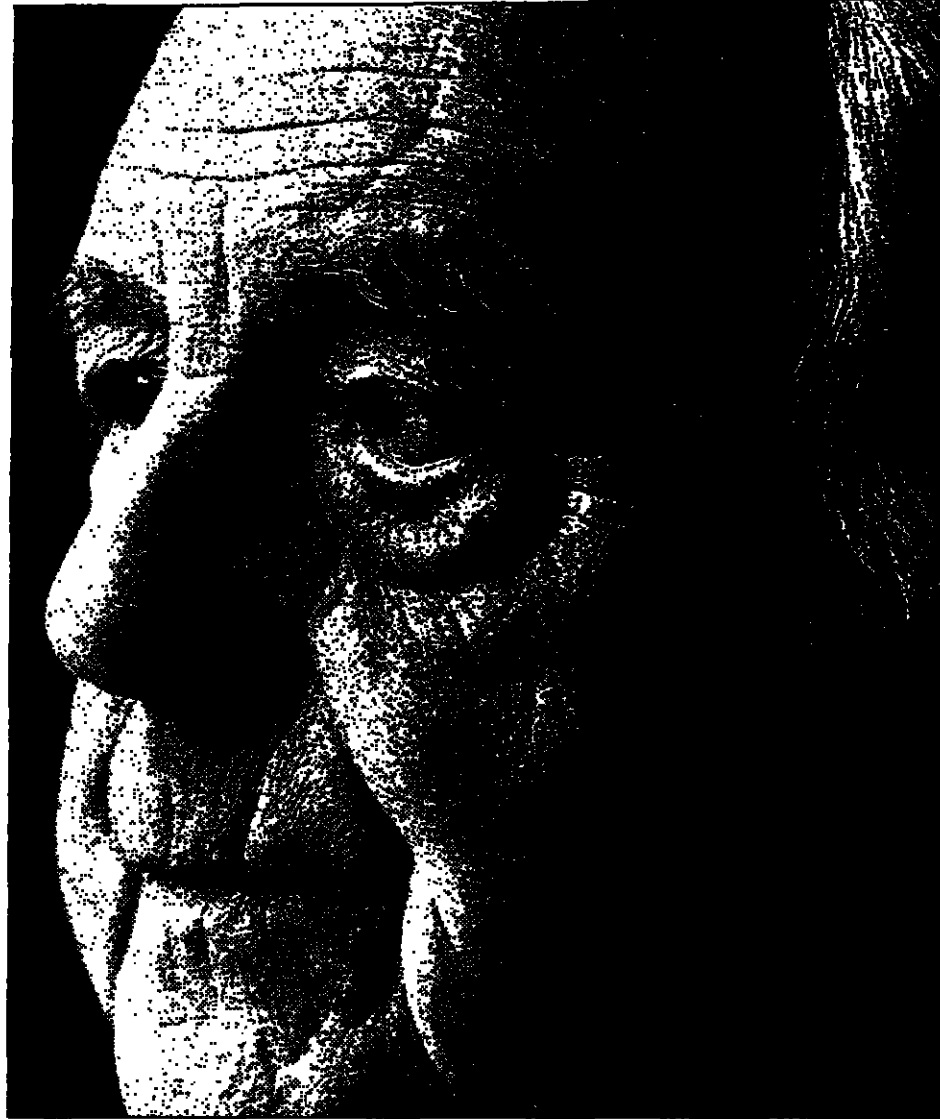
SIR Leslie Martin, a distinguished architect, yesterday received the 1991 Royal Institute of British Architects' trustees' medal for his work at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. The work included acting as architectural and planning consultant for the master plan and design of the Centre for Modern Art and the Children's Pavilion.

Sir Leslie, aged 83, was born in Manchester and educated at the University of Manchester School of Architecture, where he became an assistant lecturer and received a doctorate in 1934. He became head of architecture at the University of Hull and worked for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway and for the London County Council.

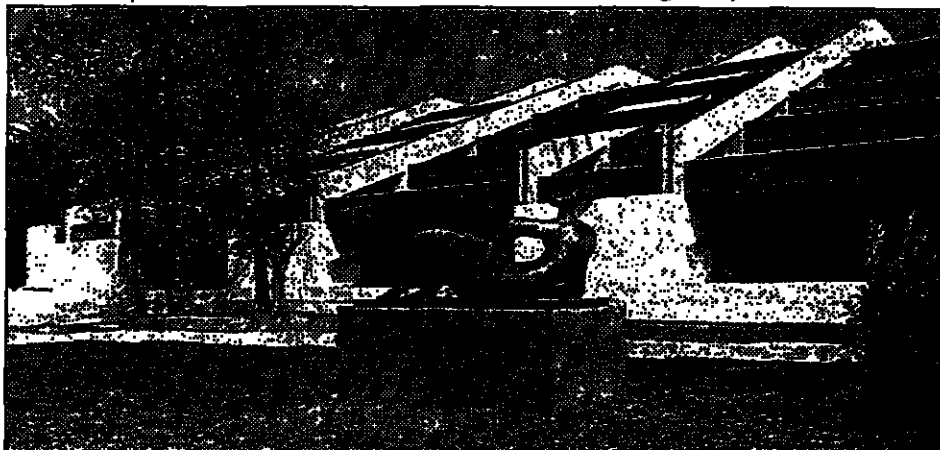
In 1956 he became professor of architecture at Cambridge University and was a consultant for building work at the universities of Hull, Leicester and London. He taught throughout his career and has been visiting professor at Oxford, Harvard, Yale and the Royal College of Art.

Sir Leslie received his knighthood in 1957 and was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1973. The citation said that he had made a "truly outstanding contribution to architecture and planning".

The trustees' medal honours Sir Leslie for his part "in the creation of an urban space, the Gulbenkian Foundation's complex of buildings in its Lisbon park, crowned by his Centre for Modern Art and Acarte". The new award, inaugurated last year and endowed by Marley plc, recognises outstanding architecture anywhere in the world by a British designer.



Winning face, winning facade: Sir Leslie Martin (above) and (below) his Centre for Modern Art, with Henry Moore sculpture in the garden, in Lisbon



Fishermen angry at EC 'betrayal'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND KERRY GILL

FISHERMEN accused the government of betrayal yesterday in the wake of a European Community agreement on new measures to conserve fish stocks.

But David Curry, the fisheries minister, defended the deal, which was reached in Luxembourg on Monday night after two years of bitter argument.

"The fishermen must stop this constant 'bellying', said Mr Curry. "They say they want conservation but they oppose every single measure that is put forward. Every time they trot out the same old press releases saying it is the end of the world as they know it."

The agreement will limit the length of drift nets used for fishing tuna in the North Atlantic, so as to reduce the killing of dolphins and other sea mammals, and increase the minimum mesh size of nets used to trawl for cod and haddock in the North Sea, allowing more juvenile fish to escape.

The measures take effect

from June 1, 1992, but vessels which have been using drift nets for more than two years will be allowed a further 18 months during which they may use nets up to three miles.

This concession, required to appease the French, who have 37 vessels licensed to use drift nets in the North Atlantic, was bitterly attacked by Cornish fishermen. "We have been stabbed in the back once again by our own government," Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Newlyn-based Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said.

David Scott, chairman of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, based in Grimsby, said: "Time after time we commit ourselves to looking at new fisheries and time after time the politicians, egged on by ill-informed environmentalists, attempt to destroy us."

Mr Curry said the concession to the French had been necessary to get agreement. "Nothing is giving fishermen a worse image with the public than the drift-netting issue."

Heart disease toll 'could be halved'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

UPTO 70,000 people a year in Britain could be saved from premature death due to heart disease if cardiologists were able to spend more time on prevention and early treatment, specialists said yesterday.

A reduction of nearly 50 per cent in the annual toll of about 165,000 such deaths was feasible by the end of the decade, Douglas Chamberlain, president of the British Cardiac Society, said.

However, the target was now beyond reach because of a shortage of heart specialists, and that shortage was due largely to the short-sightedness almost 30 years ago of the medical profession itself, Dr Chamberlain said.

A national survey published by the society in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians shows that although Britain has one of the worst rates of heart disease in the world, there are seven times fewer cardiologists in the UK than in 20 European countries, and almost ten times fewer than in America.

Eight million people in 44 health districts of England and Wales do not have their own cardiologist to whom they can be referred for expert diagnosis, investigation and treatment, according to the survey.

"At least 150 cardiologists are needed in addition to the present total of 388 to provide even a modest level of service which still would not match that in Western Europe," Dr Chamberlain said.

Professor Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, president of the Royal College of Physicians, said that the shortage was not a political issue and could not be laid at the door of any party. "The manpower debate has been going on for many years and we have to look at the role of the medical profession itself in our current difficulties."

Dr Chamberlain said that too few cardiologists were struggling to cope with an overload of patients, many of whom had to wait up to two years for heart operations, and as long as a year to be seen by a consultant.

Maxwell backs Davies against spying claims

By LIN JENKINS

ROBERT Maxwell, publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, defended the newspaper's sacked foreign editor Nick Davies yesterday, against allegations that he was an Israeli intelligence agent and betrayed the whereabouts of Mordechai Vanunu to Mossad.

He said Mr Davies had been dismissed only for lying to his editor about a visit to Ohio in 1985, but that the *Mirror* group would stand by him against the allegations.

Mr Davies initially denied meeting arms dealer Clarence Kaufman at his home in Ohio in 1985, a claim used by Seymour Hersh, the American author, to support allegations in his book, *The Samson Option*, that Mr Davies was involved in an arms dealing company along with Israeli agent Ari Ben-Menasseh.

As Mr Davies was sacked yesterday, William Johnson, an American arms dealer, withdrew a denial he had made to the *Daily Mirror* about meeting Mr Davies, and said that they had met at Mr Kaufman's home to discuss a sale of weapons to Nigeria.

Mr Maxwell, asked on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* why Mr Davies was sacked, said: "Because regrettably, though we stand by the defence of him over the allegations that he

betrayed Vanunu, he lied to the editor." He dismissed other allegations contained in the book: "I'm sure the Mossad allegations are sheer rubbish and invention."

He said that the claims that Mr Davies had betrayed the whereabouts of Vanunu, an Israeli nuclear technician, while the latter was in England disclosing his story to *The Sunday Times*, had been confirmed by *The Sunday Times* as being a "lie and a fabrication".

Labour post for woman

Sylvia Heal, victor in the Mid Staffordshire by-election, yesterday became the eleventh female member of Labour's front bench team when Neil Kinnock named her as one of the party's junior spokesmen on health.

Ms Heal, a social worker and magistrate, lists equal opportunities for women and the disabled among her interests. "She will also be a deputy to Jo Richardson on women's issues."

Dale Campbell-Savours, the MP for Workington since 1979, becomes a deputy to Ann Clwyd, who previously worked alone as Labour's spokesman on overseas aid (development and co-operation). Keith Bradley joins the social security team led by Michael Meacher.

Newspapers obey rulings

THE Press Complaints Commission has upheld only 13 complaints out of a total of 253 received between June and September. Ken Morgan, the commission's director, said the results showed that newspapers were keeping the threat of direct government control at bay by refraining from "repeating errors for which they had already been reprimanded."

Lord McGregor, the commission's chairman, gave a warning last month that deliberate flouting of commission rulings would lead the next government, whether Tory or Labour, to introduce statutory regulation.

German visit

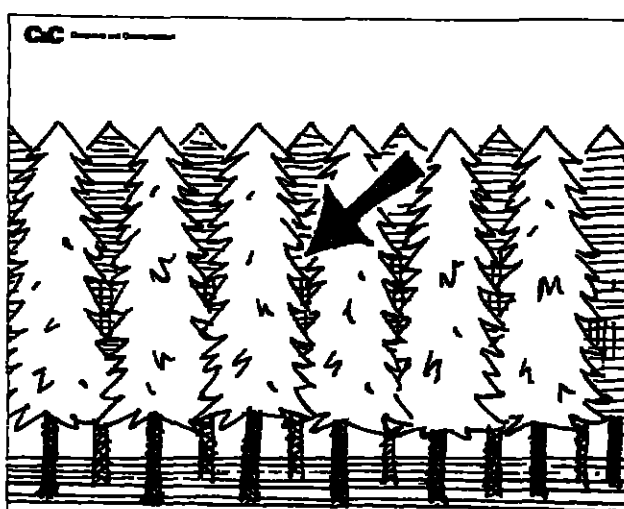
THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to make their first state visit to a unified Germany next October, during her 40th year as monarch. The itinerary is likely to include parts of the former East Germany and Berlin.

CORRECTIONS

The picture described as being of Councillor Lady Anson in our feature on Life and Times on Monday ("What women want: a new manifesto") was in fact a picture of Lady Elizabeth Anson, the sister of the Earl of Lichfield. Lady Anson qualified as a barrister in 1952 and not 1974.

Roger Boyes' Warsaw Notebook (October 21) said that John Le Carré charged a Warsaw theatre £150 for each performance of *Spy*, a dramatisation of *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*. The royalty finally negotiated by his German agent was in fact £26 a performance — the standard rate for Warsaw theatres. We apologise to Mr Le Carré for any implication of profiteering at the expense of the theatre.

Subscription prices for 1991: UK £12.00, Europe £14.00, USA \$24.00. Single copies 50p. Back issues 60p. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery. Payment by cheque or credit card only. Please send no money by post. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery. Payment by cheque or credit card only. Please send no money by post. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery. Payment by cheque or credit card only. Please send no money by post.



NEC's new colour monitors have a bias to green. Stringent tests in Scandinavia on static and electromagnetic emission standards have placed them top of the environmental acceptability tree.

But then you'd expect that kind of high-tech performance of any product in NEC's electronic data processing range.

Find out more of the facts on NEC's PCs, printers and monitors by calling the number below.

NEC

Campaign to preserve Dylan Thomas's home

By TIM JONES

EVEN the wild, sad master poet of Wales could not have dreamt in his wildest excesses of drink-laden death that one day former prime ministers and presidents would be willing to fight to preserve the house in which he was born.

Although he wrote most of his poems in no 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, Swansea, Dylan Thomas did not appear to have much loved the Edwardian period house, which is now on the market for £89,000.

As a baby, when he cried, his father said "put the little bugger through the window" and as a youth, Thomas wrote to a friend complaining that his

bedroom was so small he had to walk outside to turn round. He wrote: "I first saw the light of day in a Glamorgan villa and, amidst the terrors of the Welsh accent and smoke of the tinplate stacks, grew up..."

Frank Jones, a farmer who bought the property in the "ugly, lovely town", said yesterday that he had decided to sell because he had had enough. He added: "The tourist board dismiss him as a boozier, but he was much, much more than that."

Last night Lord Callaghan of Cardiff confirmed that he and his friend, the former US president Jimmy Carter, an admirer of the work if not of the lifestyle

of Thomas, were willing to help the English department of the University College of Swansea to raise money to preserve the building. Lord Callaghan said: "I have spoken to former president Carter on the telephone and he is very keen on the idea."

Since he purchased the house eight years ago, Mr Jones says he has spent £30,000 on restoring it as a time capsule. Because of its connections, a premium of £15,000 has been added.

Thomas, who died in New York after a drinking spree in 1953, was always short of money. The asking price for the house in which he was born would have been beyond his imagination.



Thomas: little love for house where he was born

Jury is expected to judge the boredom rating of Coronation Street character

Libel court told of actor's humiliation over article

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HIGH Court jury is expected to spend the next five days considering a question that 16 million television viewers might think ridiculously easy to answer: is Ken Barlow of *Coronation Street* really boring?

The actor, Bill Roache, who has played the much derided Barlow since *Coronation Street* was conceived 31 years ago, is suing *The Sun* for libel because an article printed last November alleged that he was as boring in real life as his character was on screen.

Mr Roache said in court yesterday that he had been "devastated and humiliated" to read the article, which alleged that he was boastful, smug and self-satisfied, and had often come close to being fired from the series.

He had experienced a moment of "real horror" when he read a bold headline saying that he was "hated by the cast".

Mr Roache told his counsel, Charles Gray, QC, that he had sued over only part of the article because the rest "raked up things in my past" the details of which he did not want to go over for the sake of his family.

The trial has already emptied the bar of *Coronation Street*'s pub, the Rover's Re-

turn, as members of the cast filed instead into court 13 at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. Autograph hunters, including court ushers, had a field day as stars of the *Street* took turns in the witness box to tell the jury what a good bloke Ken Barlow really was.

Betty Driver, who has played Betty Turpin, the barmaid at the Rover's Return, for 22 years, told the jury that Bill Roache was "the least boring person I've ever met in my life".

Miss Driver said that Mr Roache was her best friend. She was godmother to his son. To call him smug was ludicrous and to say he was self-satisfied was "absolute rubbish". He was, she said, "just lovely", "a very, very capable actor", and "very dedicated".

If any of the cast were in difficulties they would congregate in Mr Roache's room. He was one of the most loved people among the cast.

Johnny Briggs, who, as the *Street*'s sharp southerner Mike Baldwin, enjoyed an on-screen love affair with Ken Barlow's now estranged wife, Deirdre, said that he had never heard anyone say anything detrimental about Bill Roache, who was neither smug nor self-satisfied, and



The actor William Roache, alias Ken Barlow of Coronation Street, leaving court yesterday with his wife, Sara

"in no way whatsoever" boring. In spite of their screen rivalry, in real life, he told the court, he and Mr Roache were the best of friends and golfing partners.

Michael Le Vell, who as the unemployed mechanic Kevin Webster lives next door to the Rover's, rated Mr Roache's professional ability "100 per cent" and said: "I've always found him the most genuinely approachable person." Bill

Waddington, best known as the *Street*'s know-all busybody, Perry Sugden, said that he had had five roles over the years but considered Bill Roache "far beyond me as an actor".

Mr Waddington said that Mr Roache helped him as a new recruit to cope with technical rehearsals and was "very supportive". As to whether he thought Mr Roache was smug or self-

satisfied, Mr Waddington replied: "Can I put Bill Roache into one word? He is a gentleman."

Finally, Amanda Barrie, who plays Ken Barlow's present girlfriend, the cafe owner Alma Sedgewick, said: "Bill Roache is the last person anyone would hate. He's not a hateable man." She said that he was one of the nicest and most professional actors she had ever played with and "a

fiere worker".

The *Sun*'s article, written by Ken Irwin, who was described as "a *Street* insider from the start", claimed that Bill Roache was "universally nicknamed BKB - Boring Ken Barlow". The witnesses from the cast said that they had never heard of it. Mr Waddington commented: "I thought it was a motor bike".

The hearing continues today.

Judicial review ruling a test for NHS trusts

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A COUNCIL was yesterday granted leave for a judicial review over a health authority's alleged failure to follow proper consultation procedures in setting up an NHS trust.

Rochdale metropolitan borough's application against Rochdale health authority is the first case of its kind and could have implications for other trust applications.

The council argues that the authority did not provide enough financial information in its consultation documents to allow the public to assess whether an adequate level of health care could be provided.

Under government guidelines prospective trusts have to provide broad financial information in their applications, including the unit's financial strategy, and cost implications of staffing and information systems.

More detailed information on income and expenditure has to be submitted separately to the NHS management executive.

Following concern expressed by the Commons health committee early this summer, all successful trust applicants will in future have to publish three-year business plans, but not until the month before they become established as self-governing hospitals.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the Lancashire council, said that the case raised the question of whether financial details of the Rochdale trust project should be made available to those who had to be consulted, including the local authority.

Mr Justice Hodgson decided there was a case for an application for review and a provisional date for a full hearing has been fixed for December 16.

Rochdale council is now seeking court orders quashing the health authority's decision not to release certain financial information, and a declaration that the consultation procedure followed by the health authority was in breach of provisions of the 1990 National Health Service Care Act.

The council will also apply for an order forcing the health authority to carry out proper consultations, including revealing details of the trust business plan to the council.

The health department said yesterday that the health authority had made all the necessary information available. "The Rochdale health care trust gave three full months for consultation and followed the guidance on the amount of financial information required in their application document," a health department spokesman said.

Gloria Oates, the chief executive of the health authority, said that the authority had fulfilled all the criteria on consultation. "The application document had a section on finance, including income and expenditure accounts," she added.

David Williams, chairman of Rochdale's shadow health board and one of the main figures behind the action, said he was delighted with yesterday's decision. "Our argument is that the consultation process was meaningless," he said.

"We argued in court that it was flawed in that we did not have access to the business plan and as such could not make any sort of judgement about the level of health care available in Rochdale. We want them to give us a business plan."

Rochdale was given approval in principle last month to become a trust in April 1992 pending the outcome of the application for a judicial review.

Father left to die, QC says

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DAUGHTER who stood to benefit from her father's will left him to die after she found he had taken a drugs overdose, a jury was told yesterday.

Keith Iremonger, aged 58, had changed his will in his daughter's favour only seven weeks previously, Conrad Seagroatt, QC, for the prosecution, told Nottingham crown court.

He said the daughter, Cheryl Shacklock and her husband Robert, both aged 38, and a neighbour, Patrick Kendrick, found Mr Iremonger on the kitchen floor at his home in Arnold, Nottinghamshire.

He had taken a mixture of drugs but was still alive. "They decided to leave him there to die," he said. "He was left for something like 37 hours and finally died."

Mr Seagroatt said that the father was depressed, upset and lonely after a 16-year relationship had come to an end. He also faced charges of indecent assault involving a girl aged 13.

At an inquest on Mr Iremonger, Robert Shacklock had given evidence that he had last seen him alive on a Thursday night and found him dead at Saturday lunchtime.

"It became apparent that the three defendants had come to some agreement to hide what had happened," Mr Seagroatt said.

The three have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The Shacklocks have also denied manslaughter and Mr Shacklock has denied committing perjury at the inquest.

The hearing continues today.

Crime initiative hailed as success

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FALL of 39 per cent over two years in the number of recorded burglaries on a Wolverhampton housing estate will be among of batch of statistics cited by ministers today as evidence that their "safer cities" anti-crime programme is working.

The programme, launched in 1988, is the flagship of the Home Office's attempts to tackle crime by forging partnerships between local authorities, the police, the probation service, industry and community groups. According to a report published by the department today, the initiative is beginning to achieve small, but measurable, reductions in crime in some areas.

Among the successes noted are a 39 per cent drop in recorded burglaries between 1988 and 1990 on the Lunt housing estate, Wolverhampton; a 9 per cent fall in car crime in 1990 in a large multi-storey car park in Nottingham; and a 9 per cent fall in recorded crime in the second quarter of 1991 in Birmingham city centre. The report also claims that the initiative has led to a drop in fear of crime in parts of the 16 cities covered by the programme.

Ministers said last night that the report indicated that the government's new emphasis on "multi-agency" approaches to tackling crime held out the best hope of reducing offending, though they accepted that the successes were limited.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, said last night: "The home secretary and myself are very pleased with these first emerging results of concentrated local community action against crime. We intend to develop the programme."

However, the report is unlikely to still criticism from Labour and some criminologists that the programme, to receive £7.1 million from the government this year, is under-funded. Many of the Home Office-appointed officials who run the projects are also calling for increased central funding.

Judy Clements, co-ordinator of Birmingham Safer Cities, said it was absurd that

each project received about £240,000 a year, regardless of the size of the town or city it served. "Birmingham has 171 police beats and a population of around one million, yet we get roughly the same grant as Hartlepool, which has 17 police beats and a population of under 90,000," she said.

Project organisers accept that efforts to curb property offences in one area can simply divert burglars and car

thieves to neighbouring districts. That, they say, further backs their arguments for more widespread preventive campaigns.

The project has now spread to three crime-ridden council estates on Birmingham's southern margins, where residents are receiving grants to improve the security of their homes, and efforts are being made to improve leisure facilities for children.



Survivor: Alexandra Dixon, who was carried to safety after being gored by an elephant in Kenya

Elephant attack hero honoured

By ALAN HAMILTON

A CAMBRIDGE zoologist who saved a colleague from being gored to death on the tusks of a matriarchal elephant was decorated with the Queen's Gallantry Medal at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

Christopher Thouless, of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and Alexandra Dixon, head of the overseas conservation programme at London zoo, both aged 31, were tracking elephants in Kenya in October last year when Miss Dixon was charged by a three-ton female. She lost her footing and the elephant gored her, tossed her in the air and was about to kneel on her and

gore her again when Dr Thouless threw stones at the animal and beat it between the eyes with his hands. He then carried Miss Dixon 300 yards to safety.

After the presentation by the Queen, Dr Thouless, who returns to Kenya today, recalled the elephant attack. "I was quite frightened, but there was nothing else I could do," he said. Miss Dixon, who has recovered from her injuries and is back at work at Regent's Park, said: "I had given up when Dr Thouless rescued me. It was an act of very considerable bravery which undoubtedly saved my life."

Aussies kick Tebbit test into touch

By JOE JOSEPH

NORMAN Tebbit will have his work cut out at Twickenham on Saturday rounding up fickle Australians. None of the thousands of Australians who have made Britain their home is planning to support England against the Wallabies.

Mr Tebbit invented a novel nationality test, originally linked to cricket: when it comes to the crunch, which team do you support?

"I'll risk Norman Tebbit," said Ron Clarke, the Australian long-distance runner who is now managing director of a chain of London sports clubs and has been living in England for nearly a decade. The writer and television presenter Clive James also fails the Tebbit test. "I don't really support countries, I support people. I support Campepe, and I'm glad to see that the rest of the Australian team does too," he said.

Many Australians, possibly fearful of Tebbit's wrath, have fled the country. Barry Humphries is in Los Angeles. Rolf Harris is playing his wobble-board

somewhere in Australia; the actor Keith Michel is in Canada; Rupert Murdoch is in America; and the cricket commentator Ritchie Benaud is wintering at Sydney's Channel 9. Bruce Gyngell, the chief of TV-Am, is still in London, but a spokeswoman said: "He's too busy sorting out TV-Am's future to watch rugby on television."

Bruce Matthews, chairman of Satellite Information Services, which brings horse racing to betting shops, and the former managing director of News International, publishers of *The Times*, said: "I've been here since the early 1970s and I'm certainly vigorously supporting Australia. I expect them to win by ten points."

Dee Nolan, the Australian-born editor of *Metropolitan Home* magazine and a London resident for 12 years, said: "There is no way I'd pass the Norman Tebbit test. My husband is English and mad keen on rugby. We're both going to the match on Saturday. But we're sitting separately."

David Looker, president of Australian Business in Europe, advises calling off the search. "When it comes to sport, every Australian living in London fails the Norman Tebbit cricket test, and proudly."

Mr Looker is worried that few Australians know their national anthem. He wants them to learn it so that they can give their team a boost. In the spirit of fair play, we publish here the words of *Advance Australia Fair*.

*Australians all, let us rejoice, for we are young and free
We've golden soil and wealthly toil, our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty, rich and rare
In history's page let every stage, Advance Australia Fair*

*In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair
Now you know why Frank Ifield sang
Waltzing Matilda instead.*

Sport, page 40

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Monthly Payments	£768.86	£293.15	£238.35
Finance Charge	£295.32†	£1,622.40†	£2,509.80†
Total Payable	£12,250.32†	£13,577.40†	£14,464.80†

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Police
blamed
Hillsbo
retires



Decision
disciplin

Children's
officer
not gay

Police chief blamed over Hillsborough retires early

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE senior officer in charge of police at the Hillsborough football stadium when 95 Liverpool supporters were killed in a crush on the terraces is to be retired from the force on health grounds, it was disclosed yesterday. He will not face a planned disciplinary tribunal.

Chief Supt David Duckenfield, aged 48, who was criticised for his conduct on the day by the official report into the disaster, was suspended from his post when Lord Justice Taylor's interim findings were published in August, 1989, four months after the deaths.

Relatives of the victims said last night that they felt yesterday's decision had cheated them of justice.

Richard Wells, the new chief constable of South Yorkshire police, said that Mr Duckenfield was suffering from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder and

was too ill to continue as a police officer. "I quite understand that the bereaved relatives and friends will be angry at my decision, since it rules out Mr Duckenfield's involvement in the planned disciplinary tribunal for which South Yorkshire police have been preparing for some months," he said. "David Duckenfield has become the symbolic focus of much of the anguish felt by those who were so hurt by the tragedy, but I must deal with the man, not the symbol."

Mr Wells, who took over the force after the retirement of Peter Wright, the chief constable at the time of the disaster, said that Mr Duckenfield was another victim of the Hillsborough tragedy. He said that his decision was taken after "careful consideration" of a report from the police staff surgeon, an independent physician.

Philip Hammond, of the Hillsborough Families Support Group, whose son aged 14 was among those who died, said: "We feel we have been cheated of justice. David Duckenfield was the man to blame because he was in overall charge. How he could be suspended at first, and then only go off sick when disciplinary charges were brought, defeats me."

The chairman of the group, Trevor Hicks, whose two daughters died, echoed the feeling of injustice, but said the group had to accept that Mr Duckenfield was ill.



Duckenfield: will not face a disciplinary tribunal

Decision will renew discipline debate

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF Supt Duckenfield's early retirement with a pension comes at a time when the Home Office is considering new guidance to chief constables on discipline procedures for officers with medical problems. The decision to allow the South Yorkshire officer to leave will almost certainly renew the debate over the discipline procedure.

The average pension for an officer of Mr Duckenfield's rank in his circumstances would be about £23,000 a year. He could cash a quarter of his entitlement, giving him a £86,000 lump sum and £17,250 a year.

The pension is enhanced because Mr Duckenfield is leaving the police through ill health. Although he has served 28 years he will draw

the pension for 30 years' service, the maximum. It will be index linked.

Critics of the discipline system say the present regulations allow officers facing discipline to escape examination by producing medical evidence. The need for change was raised after Scotland Yard agreed in 1988 to allow Detective Supt Tony Lundy to resign, rather than face a discipline hearing.

The Home Office has already issued some guidance reminding forces that they can review a pension if the officer seems to have recovered. Now new guidance is on the way which calls for chief constables to seek a third medical opinion beyond the force's chief medical officer and the officer's GP.

Children's officer 'not gay'

By DAVID YOUNG

THE former social worker at the centre of allegations that sex abuse had taken place at the Leicestershire children's homes he ran denied yesterday that he was a homosexual.

Frank Beck, aged 49, was giving evidence at a Leicester Crown Court trial, where he denies 27 charges of physical and sexual abuse.

The trial judge earlier this week ordered the withdrawal of five other charges, three of buggery and two of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He said that the prosecution evidence could not justify verdicts.

Mr Beck yesterday told the jury at the start of the trial's seventh week that he was not gay. He had served nine years in the Royal Marines and would have been thrown out had he been involved in homosexuality.

He denied allegations made during prosecution evidence that he had been an interrogator and boasted about torturing prisoners or others. After leaving the marines he had a variety of jobs before he worked at a Leicester probation hostel for a year and with Northamptonshire social services for another 12 months.

After completing a two-year course, he was put in charge of the Poplars children's home in Market Harborough in 1973, when he was 31.

Two of Mr Beck's former deputies, George Lincoln, aged 39, of Sudbury, Suffolk, and Peter Jaynes, aged 42, of Chatham, Kent, deny a total of four charges.

The trial continues.

Traditions win Punch title fight

By PETER DAVENPORT

IT IS not every day that someone can win a British championship aided by dexterity with a swazzel. Yesterday, however, Mikel Dee did just that.

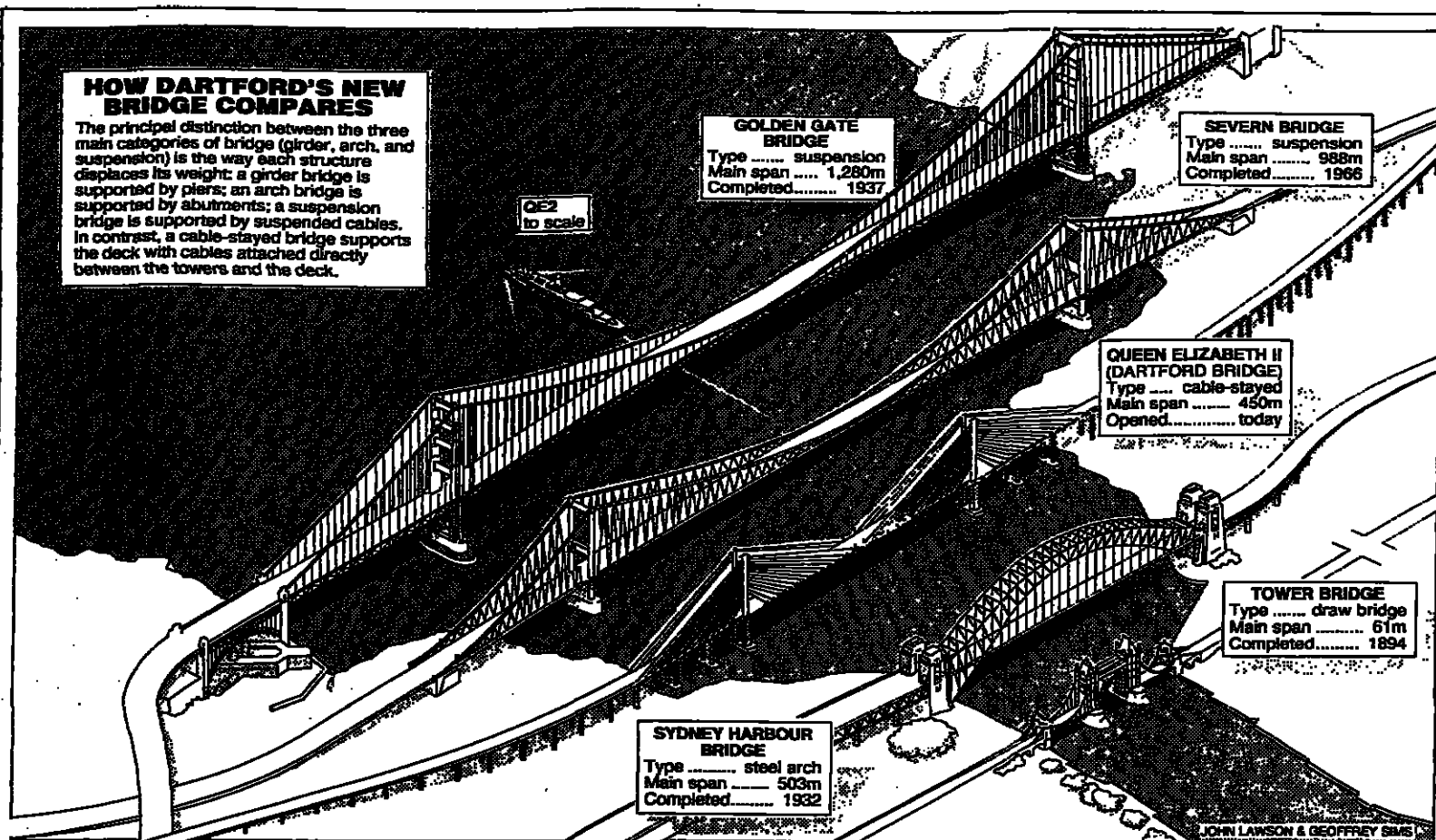
The swazzel is the tiny device, details of which are a trade secret, held in the mouth to give the distinctive voice of a Punch and Judy professor. Because it is hard to master, many in striped booths have forsaken the swazzel, to the dismay of traditionalists.

Yesterday, the fifth British Punch and Judy championships were held at Patrington, near Hull, with extra marks given for use of the swazzel. Geoff Barry, the organiser, said: "Some professors cheat and say they use a swazzel, but don't. It is very difficult to master and many people end up swallowing them. But we want to encourage Punch and Judy to continue in the traditional manner so we decided to pay special attention to the use of the swazzel this year."

Six of Britain's estimated 150 "professors" vied to be national champion. Each did 12 minutes before six judges and an audience of 500.

Mikel Dee, aged 50, of Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, triumphed despite having woken up yesterday to find that thieves had stolen his new car with his puppets and his booth. Mr Dee won with borrowed equipment, but his own swazzel.

"Details of just what a swazzel is are a closely guarded secret handed down in families," he said. "I can say that it took me 18 months to master how to use one."



Spanning the years: how London's Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, to be opened to traffic by the Queen today, compares with its more illustrious counterparts. The bridge, which is the first to be built downstream of the City of London since Tower Bridge in 1894, will double existing river crossing capacity.

between Dartford, in Kent, and Thurrock, Essex, to 130,000 vehicles a day in each direction, and will help to ease one of the most notorious traffic bottlenecks on the M25. It is the largest cable-stayed bridge in Europe and cost £120 million. Although closely related to the suspension bridge, the cable-

stayed bridge is more functional, less elegant and significantly cheaper. The new bridge is the first large-scale infrastructure project this century to be wholly financed by the private sector. The consortium of backers has a 20-year lease from the transport department to operate the bridge, which must be handed

back to the public sector if tolls cover construction costs sooner than expected. Only southbound traffic will use the four-lane bridge, and tolls will be the same as for northbound traffic in the two Dartford tunnels: 80p for cars, £1.30 for two-axle lorries and £2.10 for articulated lorries.

Wrens to remain at sea, says admiral

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE decision to send Wrens to sea is irreversible, in spite of a number of "titillating" stories appearing in newspapers. Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, chief of naval staff, said yesterday.

He said that he fully supported the decision to allow women on Royal Navy warships, and that the advantages were enormous.

Since the announcement in February last year that the traditional ban on women at sea was to end, 250 Wrens have served on board ships, all of them converted to allow separate sleeping quarters and showers for the Wrens.

Sir Julian praised the "first class" performance of the Wrens on HMS Brilliant during the Gulf conflict, on which 20 Wrens, 16 ratings and four officers, served.

A number of navy wives have claimed that their husbands would be tempted to form relationships with Wrens. Sir Julian said, however, that the decision to send women to sea was the right one. "We had to go down this road and the decision is totally irreversible."

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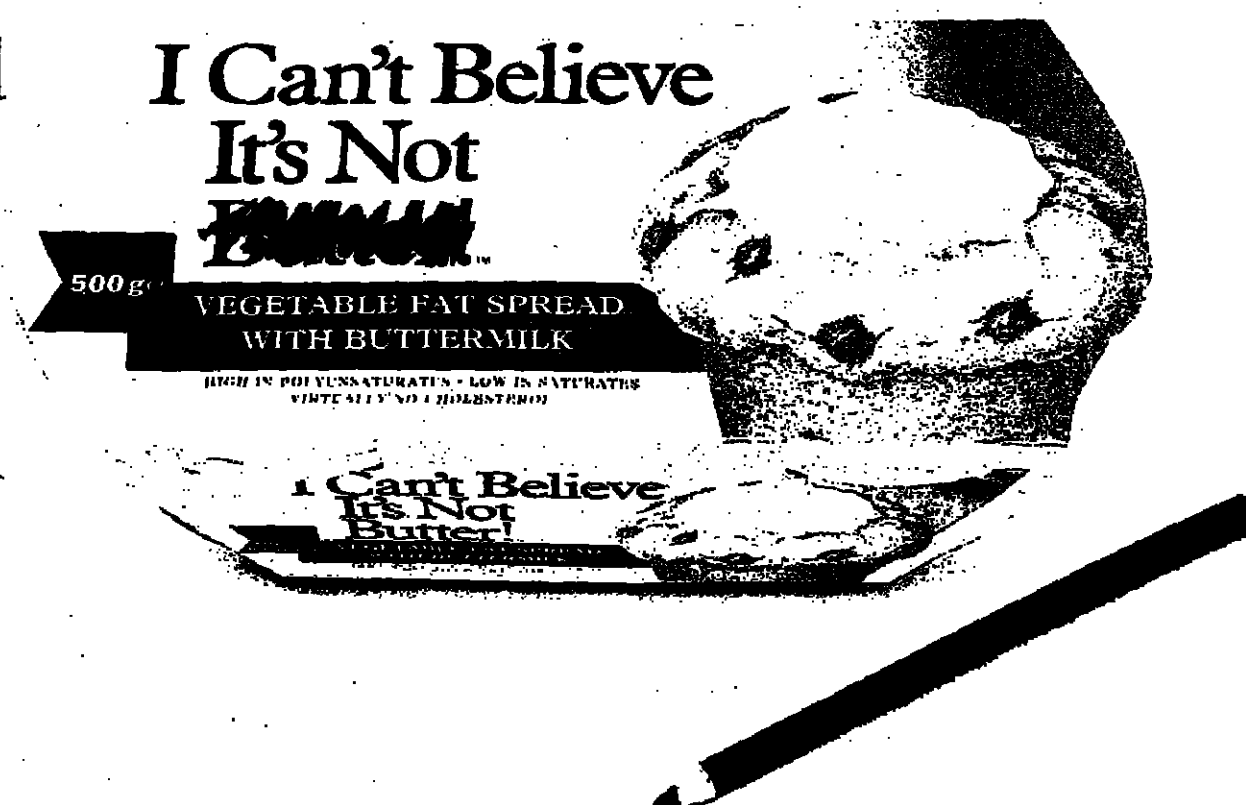
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Owner
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arch

for leak

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a warm

Ownership wrangle as stolen Renoir turns up in Japan

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A £450,000 Renoir painting stolen from the Bond Street gallery Wildenstein four years ago in what was called the "fishing line theft" has turned up at the gallery's Tokyo branch, leading to a dispute over who owns it.

Had the painting, *A Vase of Flowers*, surfaced in this country, there would be no question that the rightful owners would be the Lloyds underwriters who reimbursed Wildenstein for its loss. Under Japanese law, however, title can be passed on in respect of stolen goods purchased in good faith. The insurers and the present possessor are now locked in a civil dispute over ownership.



The one that got away: Renoir's *A Vase of Flowers*

The saga began on April 4, 1987, shortly after Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* fetched the world record of £24 million, and flower paintings were all the rage. A policeman on night patrol in Bond Street spotted a hole in the window of the Wildenstein gallery. There was no alarm or immediate signs of disturbance. However, a display case 12ft inside the window was empty.

The only feasible theory for the theft, according to detectives, was that the painting, which measures 14 by eight inches, was "fished" out of the window with a rod and hook so thin that they could not be detected by the security system. A Scotland Yard spokesman spoke of the painting being stolen to order. "They knew exactly what they wanted," he said.

Nothing was heard of the painting until last month when a Japanese man brought it into Wildenstein's in Tokyo and asked for a valuation. Staff asked him to leave the painting with them for inspection, and notified Interpol.

Michael Payton, solicitor with Clyde and Co, which represents the Lloyds underwriters, said: "The man said he was acting for a finance company, which had been asked to advance money on it. We got a court order for the picture to be impounded while title is established."

The insurers appointed an investigator, who discovered that the painting may have passed through Switzerland on its way to Japan. Switzerland is another country in which title can pass if a sale takes place in good faith.

New Scotland Yard and Wildenstein staff assume that the painting must have changed hands since the theft, because the present possessor of the painting would never have taken it into Wildenstein's knowing it to have been stolen.

Mr Payton is optimistic that the underwriters will recover their money. "There are no legal issues," he said. "There is no indication that the person who handed the painting to the finance company is going to claim it." However, the Civil Code of Japan, 1972, in which the country's laws are enshrined, says that title for stolen goods can pass if the object is bought "in good faith and without negligence". According to Article 194, "the injured party or the loser cannot recover the thing unless he reimburses the possessor for the price of it".

Kuwaitis launch poppy appeal

THE Last Post echoed around walls hanging with portraits of the Kuwaiti Royal Family yesterday as the Royal British Legion poppy appeal was launched on foreign soil for the first time in its 70-year history.

British Gulf commanders and veterans assembled at the Kuwaiti embassy, London, to watch Ghazi Al-Rayes, the Kuwaiti ambassador, unveil a plaque dedicated to British servicemen who fought to free his country.

"British soldiers died in the fight to liberate Kuwait. They left a part of themselves in our hearts," he said, asking those present to remember also more than 2,000 of his countrymen being held hostage in Iraq.

Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, who laid a wreath beneath the plaque, said funds raised by the appeal would be needed to help servicemen who fell victim to imminent cuts in the armed forces. "That, too, will produce many difficulties in terms of resettlement of our servicemen and we know we can count on the Royal British Legion to play a very important role in that as well," he said.

The poppy appeal raised nearly £13 million last year, enabling the legion to help more than 100,000 people, veterans of this century's wars and conflicts and their families.



Paying tribute: Ghazi Al-Rayes, the Kuwaiti ambassador, at yesterday's ceremony

Computer will jog solicitors' memories

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE rising cost to solicitors of bailing out dishonest or incompetent colleagues has led to the creation of a company that aims to capitalise on solicitors' abysmal record in remembering key dates.

The company, Professional Memories, is a computerised memory service that aims to cut the cost of negligence claims arising from missed dates, and papers being lodged "out of time".

The founder, Clement Noel, a consultant with his former law firm in Surrey, said: "The aim is to make it impossible for solicitors to overlook a vital date, and not to be dependant on the availability and continuity of trained staff. It is a fact of life that most solicitors forget a vital date on some occasion in their careers."

Research indicated that about 60 per cent of negligence claims were time claims, he said. This year, the cost of professional indemnity insurance in England and Wales is due to rise by more than 34 per cent, with the indemnity fund paying out £120 million.

Under Mr Noel's scheme, which is backed by a £2 million indemnity policy from Sun Alliance, solicitors pay a fee of £22, inclusive of VAT, and receive two recorded delivery reminders of any date up to six years ahead. The scheme will be launched next week.

Fake nurse tries to steal baby

Police are searching for a woman who posed as a nurse to try to take a newborn baby from the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford.

The woman, aged about 30 and wearing what appeared to be a nurse's uniform, walked into a single room in the hospital's maternity unit and asked to take the two-day-old baby from its mother, aged 23, who became suspicious and alerted staff.

Police questioned staff yesterday but confirmed that none was near the room when the attempt was made.

Nimmo banned

The actor Derek Nimmo was fined £200 and banned from driving for 12 months by Plymouth magistrates after admitting to drink driving.

Pit bull attack

Michael Pryer, a police constable aged 31, had 36 stitches in his face after being attacked by a pit bull terrier in West Ham, east London.

Noise curb

An noise abatement notice has been issued against a police station in Cardiff after residents complained of barking from stray dogs kept there.

Oil tanker leak

Thousands of gallons of crude oil leaked from a tanker at Canvey Island, Essex.

Paper boy dies

A newspaper boy aged 14 died after being hit by a car in Shirley, Hampshire.

Milk marketing

Reply to monopoly abuse charge due

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has been given until today to respond to a formal warning from Brussels that the Milk Marketing Board is abusing its monopoly powers. Unless John Gummer, the agriculture minister, can persuade Brussels that the abuse is being dealt with, or produce new evidence in mitigation, the government may find itself before the European Court of Justice.

Mr Gummer received a "reasoned opinion" from Raymond MacSharry, the European agriculture commissioner, setting out the case against the board about a month ago, and should have replied by Friday. He asked for more time to take legal advice and to consult the concerned parties.

At stake is the board's exclusive right to buy milk from the 30,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales and sell it to processors at prices fixed annually in negotiation with the Dairy Trade Federation. Although those monopoly powers received the European Commission's blessing after Britain joined the European Community in 1973, their legal interpretation is now being challenged.

The nub of the dispute is the commission's argument that semi-skimmed or low-fat milk, which now accounts for 40 per cent of the British milk market, is a processed product and falls outside the board's powers. It argues that farmers

who separate the fat themselves, or have a commercial interest in a dairy that does so, are under no legal obligation to sell to the board.

Brussels has intervened at a delicate juncture in the 58-year history of the milk marketing monopoly. Mr Gummer has put pressure on the board to become more market-oriented, and the board has suggested turning itself into a voluntary co-operative, a proposal that has sharply divided dairy farmers.

About 300 rebel farmers, who have been skimming their own milk and selling direct to customers, have been warned by the board that their producer licences could be withdrawn if they do not sign agreements recognising their liability to pay a penalty levy should they continue to sell milk directly. The deadline for signing the agreements expired on Monday. The board said that a "significant proportion" of the rebels had signed.

Critics of the milk marketing scheme say that it is stifled innovation, allowing continental dairy products to take a growing share of the British market, and depressed returns to farmers while keeping the consumer price of milk higher than it need be. Many small farmers in remote areas, however, value the security of daily milk collection and a monthly cheque from the board.

Fish warms to Scots offering

By KERRY GILL

GLOBAL warming may be to blame for an invasion of Scottish waters by sharp-toothed trigger fish, which can munch their way through shellfish, wreak havoc among salmon on fish farms and devour an underwater thermometer with a single bite.

Trigger fish usually frequent the warm Mediterranean, so scientists are baffled as to why they should swim all the way to the chilly Scottish west coast. It may, they think, be due to global warming and the meals available once there.

More than 20 of the fish have been detected in recent months, and this week the Sea Life Centre, near Oban, was given a trigger found in a



Trigger fish: preys on shellfish and farm salmon

fisherman's creel off Mull. It joined several other examples being studied at the centre.

Triggers grow to about 12 inches and have erect spines on a dorsal fin with which they wedge themselves into crevices. Once they enter a creel or a salmon cage, their shape makes it difficult for them to escape.

Terry Donovan, of the Sea

Life Centre, said: "It's very unusual to find them this far north. We don't know the explanation, although there are all sorts of theories, including global warming."

Trigger fish can be found in the warmer seas off the south coast of England in summer, but tend to remain in the Mediterranean. When the presence off Scotland of the first trigger was reported, it was thought that it had become lost.

However, with so many having been seen, it is believed that they are attracted by warmer water in the North Atlantic drift. Once they arrive off western Scotland, noted for its hundreds of fish farms and lobster fisheries, it seems that there is every reason to stay.

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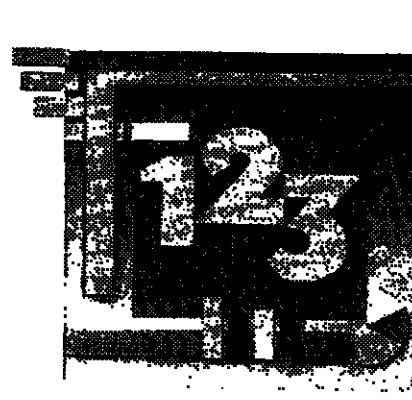
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Hanoi acc

Hong to avo

From Jonathan Blum
in Hanoi

BRITAIN and Vietnam yesterday signed an agreement to allow the deportation of thousands of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong, despite fears of an international outcry if force were used against them.

Senior Hong Kong officials promised to do their best to avoid "anything to emphasise the need for order and dignity to Vietnam". They gave a warning, however, that boat people would be sent back without their consent.

Asian Aspects. Hong Kong's secretary for security and Vietnam had announced that nobody deported under the agreement would face persecution. He said Vietnam would continue to allow United Nations refugee officials to monitor the conditions of people sent home.

Under the agreement, only boat people arriving in Hong Kong after last night will undergo the much criticised screening process, ramping the queue of 40,000 people already awaiting the process in the colony's crowded detention centres. Those thought not to be genuine political refugees could be returned to Vietnam within six weeks.

Exact arrangements for the return of the nearly 20,000 boat people already rejected for political refugee status over the past three years are still being worked out with Vietnam, mainly to ensure that its poverty-stricken northern provinces are not swamped.

America still

From Martin Pearl

NEWS that Britain and Vietnam had agreed to the mandatory repatriation of the Hong Kong boat people brought only a muted reaction from the Bush administration, which was what the British government had privately been pressing for.

There was no statement from either the White House or the State Department. Pressed for a reaction, spokesmen merely reiterated the long-standing American pol-

US gets of stere

From Charles B...

WITH a sea of artificial blood and fancy dress worth \$250 million, America celebrates Halloween tomorrow, a night that has kept in the past ten years from a children's fest to an excuse for adult revelry that is close to eclipsing New Year and Christmas combined.

The Halloween mania, which last year sparked riots in Greenwich Village and has led to widespread arson in Detroit in recent years, is seen as part of a new craze for the gothic which in turn springs from a clash between America's increasingly violent, secular society and its old-fashioned puritanism.

But while the middle classes are letting off paper steam and revelers commit

Vengeful blood



their now traditional role in the inner cities, the watchdogs of America's new ideology hope that at least the children will learn from playing with such "harmful stereotypes" as witches, ghouls and monsters.

What once seemed fun is now deemed damaging to minorities under the philosophy of the politically correct. "The Halloween image of the witch - old, black - reflects stereotypes of gender, race and age," says a teachers' manual published in Washington. This, it says, suggests that old women are evil, that old women are ugly and that the colour black is evil.

Hanoi accepts boat-people deportations

Hong Kong pledges to avoid using force

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE
IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN and Vietnam yesterday signed an agreement to allow the deportation of tens of thousands of Vietnamese boat-people from Hong Kong, despite fears of an international outcry if force has to be used against them.

Senior Hong Kong officials promised to do their best to avoid resorting to force, emphasising the need for an "orderly and dignified return to Vietnam". They gave a warning, however, that boat-people would be sent back with or without their consent.

Alistair Asprey, Hong Kong's secretary for security, said Vietnam had guaranteed that nobody deported under the agreement would face persecution. He said Vietnam would continue to allow United Nations refugee officials to monitor the conditions of people sent home.

Under the agreement, any boat-people arriving in Hong Kong after last night will undergo the much criticised screening process. Jumping the queue of 40,000 people already awaiting the process in the colony's crowded detention centres. Those thought not to be genuine political refugees could be returned to Vietnam within six weeks.

Exact arrangements for the return of the nearly 20,000 boat-people already rejected for political refugee status over the past three years are still being worked out with Vietnam, mainly to ensure that its poverty stricken northern provinces are not swamp-



Asprey: camps could be cleared within three years

ed with people they cannot absorb. But Mr Asprey insisted Hanoi had agreed to the principle of returning them against their will if necessary. The new agreement, signed in Hanoi by Peter Williams, the British ambassador, goes further than the limited accord signed with Vietnam last week giving the go-ahead for the deportation of a small number of boat-people who have returned to Hong Kong for a second time. The Hong Kong government still hopes next month to repatriate the first of the 200 or so "double-backers" who have not volunteered to go home. Mr Asprey said he thought the whole population of the camps could be sent home over the next two to three years.

The initial number likely to be sent back is small. Since the end of the sailing season last month only a few boatloads of people have reached Hong Kong. But once the principle is established the government

hopes to tackle the population of the detention centres. Recent British lobbying in Washington has failed to budge the United States from its "total opposition" to forced repatriation, but Mr Asprey made it clear the agreement was between Britain and Vietnam and the deportations would go ahead despite American objections.

Tension has been running high in the camps since news broke last month that agreement on compulsory deportation was close, provoking fears of a return to the violence that followed the last attempt at forced repatriation in December 1989. The international outcry that propelled scared Vietnam into changing its mind.

By separating out the double-backers and any new arrivals, officials are optimistic that they can avoid trouble among the long-stayers at least in the short term, hoping that by the time the repatriation programme gathers momentum, most of them will be resigned to their fate.



Checking out in style: Xie Jun waving to spectators in Manila after becoming the women's world chess champion

Chinese becomes chess queen

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

XIE Jun, from China, has become the new world chess champion for women. By drawing the 15th game of her world chess championship challenge in Manila against the previous champion, Maya Chiburdanidze, from Soviet Georgia, Xie reached 8½ points, which in match terms was unassailable. Chiburdanidze finished on 6½.

Xie, whose 21st birthday is today, is the first postwar women's world chess champion not to come from the Soviet bloc. Indeed, she is the first Chinese chess player ever to win a world chess championship. Remarkably, she has won her world crown a year earlier than did Gary Kasparov when, in 1985, he became the youngest men's champion at the age of 22.

In the international tournament in Tilburg, The Netherlands, officially the highest-rated tournament ever, Kasparov holds the lead after nine rounds with seven points. Second place is held by the Indian, Viswanathan Anand. Britain's top-rated grandmaster, Nigel Short, is third.

America silent on deal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWS that Britain and Vietnam had agreed to the mandatory repatriation of the Hong Kong boat-people brought only a muted reaction from the Bush administration, which was what the British government had privately been pressing for.

There was no statement from either the White House or the State Department. Pressed for a reaction, spokesmen merely reiterated the long-standing American pol-

icy of opposing forced repatriation to a communist country.

American reaction to yesterday's agreement on mandatory return of refugees was crucial to its success. Washington's strong public condemnation of the forced repatriation of 51 boat people in 1989 led Hanoi to halt further involuntary repatriations, and a similar reaction this time would probably have encouraged resistance in Hong Kong's camps.

US gets to soul of stereotyping

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

WITH a sea of artificial blood and fancy dress worth \$250 million, America celebrates Halloween tomorrow, a night that has leapt in the past ten years from a children's feast to an excuse for adult revelry that is close to eclipsing new year and Christmas combined.

The Halloween mania, which last year sparked riots in Greenwich Village and has led to widespread arson in Detroit in recent years, is seen as part of a new craze for the gothic which in turn springs from a clash between America's increasingly violent, secular society and its old-fashioned puritanism.

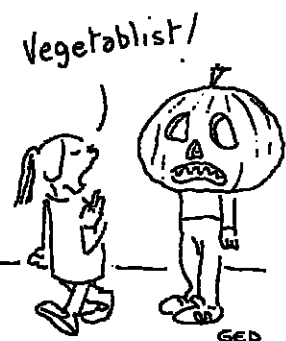
But while the middle classes are letting off pagan steam and revellers commit

The manual encourages teachers to tell children that witches were misunderstood, friendly types who helped people with herbal healing and midwifery and it suggests an essay on "good witches you know".

Ghouls such as Dracula or Frankenstein's monster are no better because they reinforce negative stereotypes about the handicapped and deformed, teachers across the country are telling their pupils. As for bats, the animal rights movement is none too happy about their negative image because the species is threatened with extinction in some places.

Do not even mention Freddy Krueger, the killer of the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series and all those heroes of the pop-gothic "slasher" or "splasher" films who have recently flooded America. These are, of course, prohibited by sensitive teachers. Even such old stand-bys for little girls as princesses are none too popular since they reinforce unhealthy notions of wealth and female passivity. Thoughtful parents already know the correct answer to little boys who want to dress as violent ninja turtles, terminators or US Marines.

On the other side of the political fence, fundamentalist Christians are lying in wait for thoughtless toddlers who see Beelzebub behind such copywritten heroes as Casper the Friendly Ghost. And, beyond Halloween, parents are being warned of the dangers of Christmas stereotypes. A shopping centre in Colorado pioneered that field last year when it chased Santa Claus from its precinct on the ground that he represented a "negative body image". Next in line, say the experts, is the irresponsible promiscuity of the Easter bunny and the questionable psychosexual implications of Easter eggs.



their now traditional riots in the inner cities, the watchdogs of America's new ideology hope that at least the children will desist from playing with such "harmful stereotypes" as witches, ghouls and monsters.

What once seemed fun is now deemed damaging to minorities under the philosophy of the politically correct. "The Halloween image of the witch - old, ugly, wicked and dressed in black - reflects stereotypes of gender, race and age," says a teachers' manual published in Washington. This, it says, suggests that powerful women are evil, old women are ugly and that the colour black is evil.

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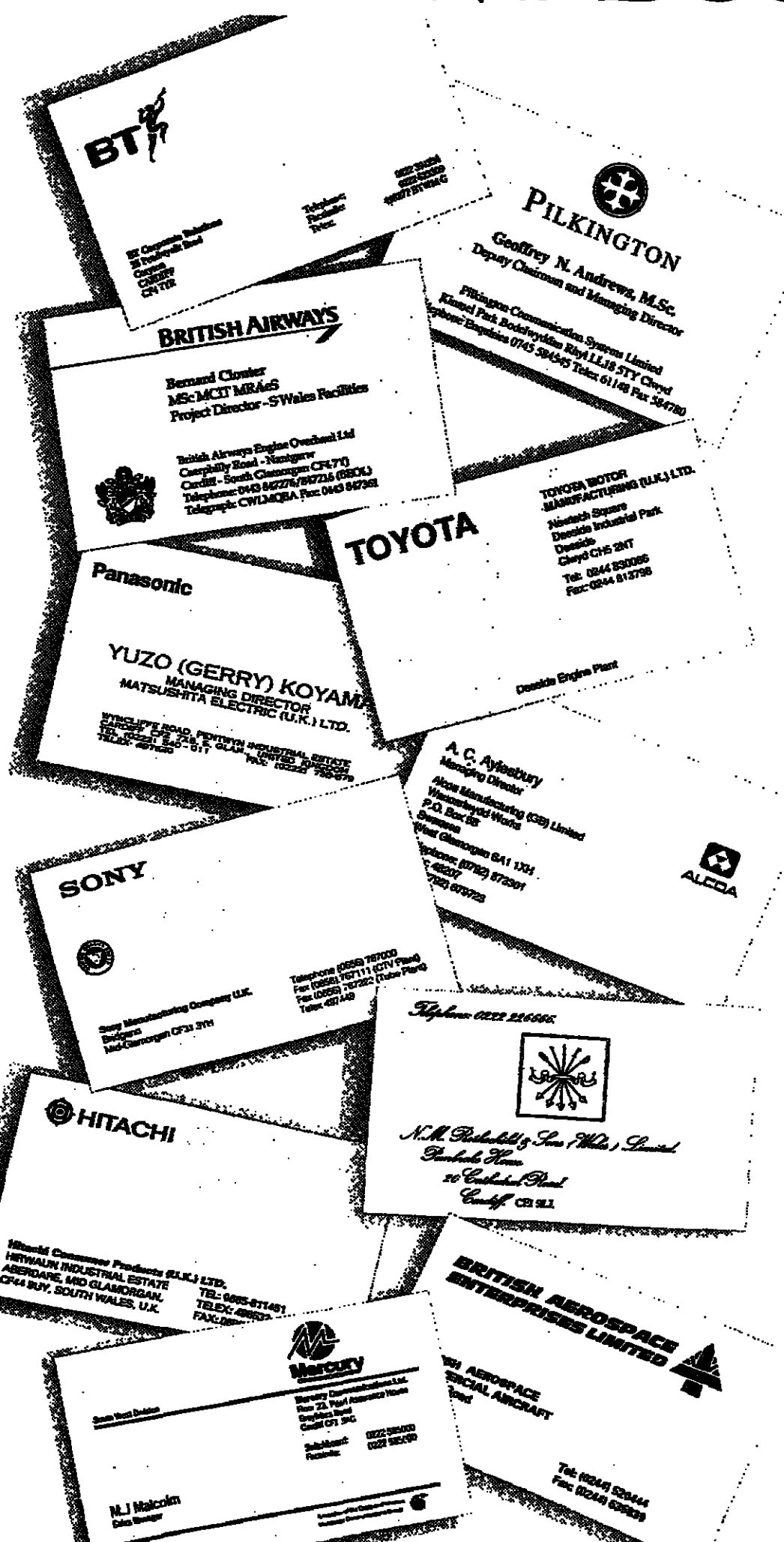
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Shamir and al-Husseini adopt conciliatory tone on eve of Madrid peace conference

Palestinians and Israel set aside brinkmanship

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MADRID

ISRAELIS and Palestinians appeared yesterday to abandon the game of diplomatic brinkmanship they have played over the past week. Instead displaying growing flexibility on the eve of the Middle East peace conference, Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, and Faisal al-Husseini, the most prominent member of the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, made conciliatory statements. If these are followed up in the next three days, they could provide the sort of impetus needed to make the conference work.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr al-Husseini, who is barred from attending the talks but is recognised as the leader of the Palestinian delegation, said that Palestinian negotiators would accept an interim autonomy plan in the occupied territories as long as the move would guarantee an independent state.

Although the concept of Palestinian statehood is rejected by Israel and opposed by Washington, the fact that the Palestinians are willing to compromise and to try an interim solution could signal a substantial breakthrough. Under proposals offered by the Israelis, the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be granted autonomy over a five-year period, with negotiations

for a final settlement to begin after the third year. Israel envisages Palestinians enjoying some rights to elect leaders to run limited aspects of government such as education, but it refuses to relinquish its control over security-related areas such as defence and foreign policy.

Asked what Palestinians would aim for at the peace talks, Mr al-Husseini replied: "Autonomy for an interim period that will move us Palestinians from a people under occupation to a people

with full independence and a Palestinian independent state that will later join in a confederation with Jordan." He was speaking after Israel said it would not allow itself to be distracted from the peace conference by the recent of armed attacks against Israel in the West Bank and Lebanon.

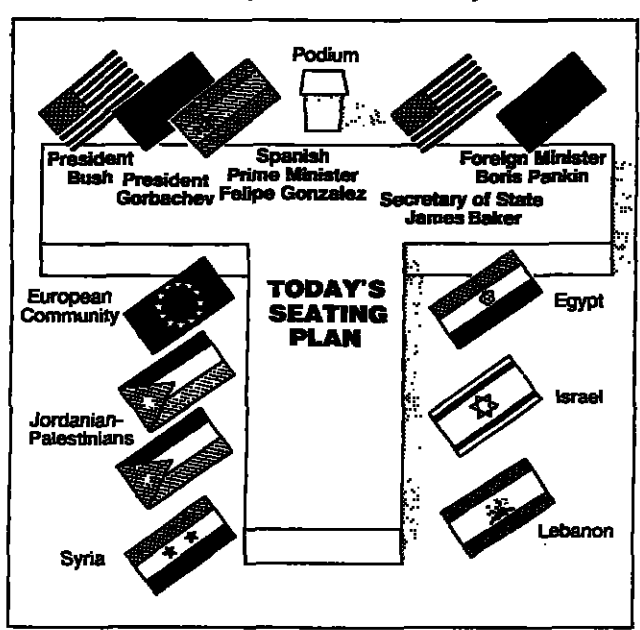
Saeed Erekat, a member of the 14-member team attending the talks in a joint delegation with Jordan, said that he had "no doubt whatsoever that eventually there will be an

independent Palestinian state".

Mr Shamir, looking and sounding unusually optimistic for a leader who has until now displayed scepticism about the peace talks, yesterday emphasised the positive aspect of the conference and moderated his language when describing the violent incidents. "We do not wish to wait any longer for peace," he said before holding separate talks with President Gorbachev and James Baker, the American Secretary of State. "We truly believe that, if our counterparts have come here in the same spirit, our years of waiting will have come to an end." He described the attacks yesterday and on Monday as actions motivated by people "with a passion for blood", who had responded to recent calls to intensify attacks on Israel.

"Some might have expected, in the face of this terror, Israel would not attend the conference," Mr Shamir, who will open tomorrow's session with the first speech by the countries directly involved in the Middle East conflict, said. "But despite this violence, our quest for peace is unrelenting. We believe that all who desire true peace should unite in condemning these unspeakable acts."

Bush meets Gorbachev, page 1
Chance for peace, page 16
Diary, page 16



James Baker, the American Secretary of State who, at 61, is the arbiter ringmaster of the conference he put together in eight Middle East journeys. His goal is to keep the Arabs and Israelis talking long enough to change the climate and reach a breakthrough that still seems impossible.



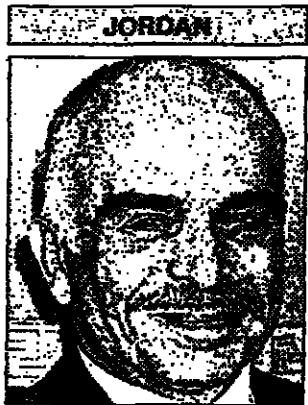
Boris Pankin, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union, the junior partner in a process being run on an equal basis with Washington in name only. The Soviet Union has too many domestic problems to play an important part, but has helped by modifying its traditional pro-Arab stance.



Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, whose decision to lead his country's delegation means compromise on the key land-for-peace issue will not be easy. A former guerrilla leader and Mossad spy-master, he believes passionately that the West Bank, as part of biblical Israel, must be retained.



Faisal al-Husseini, from east Jerusalem, is widely described as the real leader of the Palestinian delegation, but will not be at the negotiating table. In 1948 his father led Arab guerrillas against Jewish forces. Since the PLO is running the delegation, his absence is not significant.



King Hussein of Jordan, who faces the biggest problems at home because of bitter Muslim fundamentalist opposition to the talks. Kamel Abu Jaber, his new foreign minister, will represent him, and Jordan may yet be a catalyst for peace by agreeing to some form of Palestinian confederation.



President Assad of Syria, aged 61, whose dream is to regain the strategic Golan Heights. Syria, which has fought four wars with Israel and remains its main enemy, has paid lip service to the drive for an independent Palestinian state, but in reality has little love for the mainstream PLO.

A tough journey in three stages

BY RICHARD BEESTON

AGENDA

TODAY'S opening session of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid is the first of a three-stage process aimed at resolving the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Stage one is intended purely as a ceremonial three-day event, beginning today, with opening addresses by the two superpower hosts, Spain and the observers Egypt and the European Community. Tomorrow, Israel, its Arab neighbours and a delegation representing the Palestinians will each be given three-quarters of an hour to set out their positions before the negotiations start.

The second stage, which is due to begin early next week, will open the first bilateral talks between Israel and her traditional foes, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. The Arab states offer to recognise Israel and conclude a peace agreement with the Jewish state in exchange for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the territories that they currently occupy.

Syria wants the return of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 six-day war. The Palestinians seek to create a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab east Jerusalem. Beirut wants the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon.

Israel has refused to withdraw from these territories. Instead, it offers Syria peace for peace with no land concessions, and the 1.8 million Palestinians in the occupied territories semi-autonomy. It has pledged to withdraw from Lebanon only when its security needs along the border are satisfied, and Syria and all other foreign forces have also pulled out of the country.

Stage three, due to begin in two weeks, is intended to tackle pressing regional problems such as water resources and arms control and will include participants from Egypt, which has already made peace with Israel, and the Arab Gulf states, who do not share borders with Israel but have maintained a state of belligerence. But it is still not clear whether Syria and some key Arab participants will attend the multi-national final stage of the talks unless progress is made in phase two.

Paris: France said yesterday it was sending a special representative to the Madrid conference (John Phillips writes).

The foreign ministry named the envoy as Bernard Bajolet, its deputy director for North Africa and the Middle East. A spokesman said that France, supported by Italy, had insisted that a representative of each of the 12 EC member countries should accompany the Dutch delegate who is representing the community.

Jean-Francois Deniau, the deputy president of the foreign affairs commission in the national assembly, earlier described France's absence from the conference table as a "great setback for French diplomacy". France's exclusion from the peace talks marked the "obliteration" of the country on the Middle East diplomatic scene, according to M Deniau.

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, said Paris would participate directly at the Madrid conference if the French were required to use their close links to the region.

Kremlin makes regional retreat

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

GORBACHEV

THE opening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the Soviet Union and the United States as co-sponsors, should have been a highlight of Soviet diplomacy and of President Gorbachev's career.

The call for such a conference has been a pillar of Soviet foreign policy for many years. Soviet co-sponsorship would appear to give Moscow a continuing role in the region and a say in its future. Thus, Moscow's political interests will be protected. Mr Gorbachev, moreover, will not only occupy an equal position with President Bush at the head of the table, but can claim some personal credit for persuading Moscow's Arab friends to talk to Israel.

And yet the moment of personal and national diplomatic triumph is not what it would have been even a year ago. Seen from Moscow, the Madrid conference seems very far away, and the Middle East only a little closer. Previews of the meeting occupied only a tiny proportion of the Soviet press yesterday — and those papers which did mention it gave it at most a 50-50 chance of success. Departing from Moscow's traditional pro-Arab stance, most were neutral in their analysis, noting the difficulty of reconciling the Arabs' land-for-peace policy with Israel's peace-for-peace stance. A few even took a pro-Israel line.

Part of the truth is that the significance of Middle East peace for the Soviet Union has declined with the end of the Cold War. Moscow's decision to side with the Western allies

against Iraq and the allied victory in the Gulf war have made regional peace almost irrelevant.

Now, as successive visits to the region by Yevgeny Primakov, Mr Gorbachev's special envoy, have shown, the Middle East for Moscow has changed from being a region in which American influence must be curbed into a potential source of economic help. The countries with which Moscow needs good relations have changed from those strong in territory and military might, Syria and Iraq, to the oil-rich states of the Gulf.

But Moscow's interest in the opening of the conference is also reduced because Moscow is hardly a superpower any more, except in terms of nuclear capability, and is scarcely running a foreign policy. Moreover, there is hardly a Soviet state to celebrate a Soviet foreign policy triumph. Most outstanding foreign political questions appear either to have been handed over to the Soviet republics, or to have been claimed by them.

Mr Gorbachev has been reticent about how he sees the future of foreign policy. His response to Mr Bush's arms control initiative was a counter-initiative and could be classified as "defence" rather than "foreign policy". His very silence on the subject suggests that his starring role at the opening of the conference and his first foray outside the Soviet Union since the August coup could be one of the last times he represents Soviet foreign policy abroad.

West Bank show goes live

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli deputy foreign minister and media darling, discovered to his dismay on arriving in Madrid yesterday that he can no longer take for granted his title of champion television personality of the Middle East.

"Bibi", as he is known in Israel, has not lost any of his looks, nor his mastery of the TV "sound bite", which transformed him during the Gulf war from a junior minister into an international celebrity. Rather, the Arabs have a secret weapon: an ordinary looking, middle-aged, Palestinian mother of two from Ramallah on the West Bank. Yesterday, Hanan Ashrawi, a Christian Palestinian and professor of English literature at Bir Zeit University, began the first of many interviews planned for this week and aimed at turning the Middle East

conflict into something of a television duel against the Israeli side. Israeli officials are confident that Mr Netanyahu will remain on top in the debate. "No one can beat Bibi at this game; that is why he is here today", said one diplomat. However, Mrs Ashrawi's firm but reassuring manner, her articulate and unemotional arguments, her sense of humour, and sensible suits may be more in tune with the mood of Madrid than the more pugnacious style of her Israeli rival.

The propaganda battle is not the only aspect of Madrid where the Israelis appear to have come off second best. They also seem to have lost the first round to the Arabs in the allocation of hotels.

Senior delegates from Syria and Egypt have been put up at the Ritz, the

Americans are at the famed Palace Hotel, and the Lebanese, in characteristic fashion, have installed themselves at the most exclusive hotel in the city, the Santo Mauro. The Palestinians and Jordanians, while not enjoying similar luxury, none the less have been housed in Ernest Hemingway's old haunt, the Hotel Victoria.

The Israelis, with their special security needs, have been located away from the other delegations at the Princess, a modern concrete establishment that looks custom-built to withstand all manner of attack. However, it will hardly give the Israelis a good opportunity to enjoy the city.

The Soviet delegation faces very different, financial, problems, which it is hoped might be smoothed over by American and Spanish generosity.

I'm speechless

Claire Ryan never expected her husband to slip an eternity ring on her finger. But a romantic impulse got the better of Nick and his Abbey National Investment Account allowed him to do just that, with one of his two free annual withdrawals.



The habit of a lifetime

Four die in southern Lebanon combat as Jew and Arab again rehearse long-standing hatreds

Hezbollah vows 'day of wrath'

FROM ADAM KELLNER
IN BEIRUT

ON THE eve of the Madrid Middle East peace talks, Jews and Arabs yesterday did battle as usual in southern Lebanon, where four people died in combat. Among the dead were three Israeli soldiers. Fifteen people were wounded, including five Israeli troops.

The three soldiers died when a bomb planted at the side of the road exploded as they drove past in an army vehicle. The incident, north-west of the town of Marjayoun, was the second of its kind in less than ten days. The five injured soldiers were ambushed by Lebanese gunmen in a separate incident only two miles from the Israeli border in the early hours.

According to an army spokesman, shoulder-fired missiles and anti-tank grenades were fired at the patrol before the Israelis returned fire. In the ensuing battle, two gunmen were killed and another was captured. Israel said they belonged to a faction of Islamic Jihad and had intended to attack a civilian target in Israel.

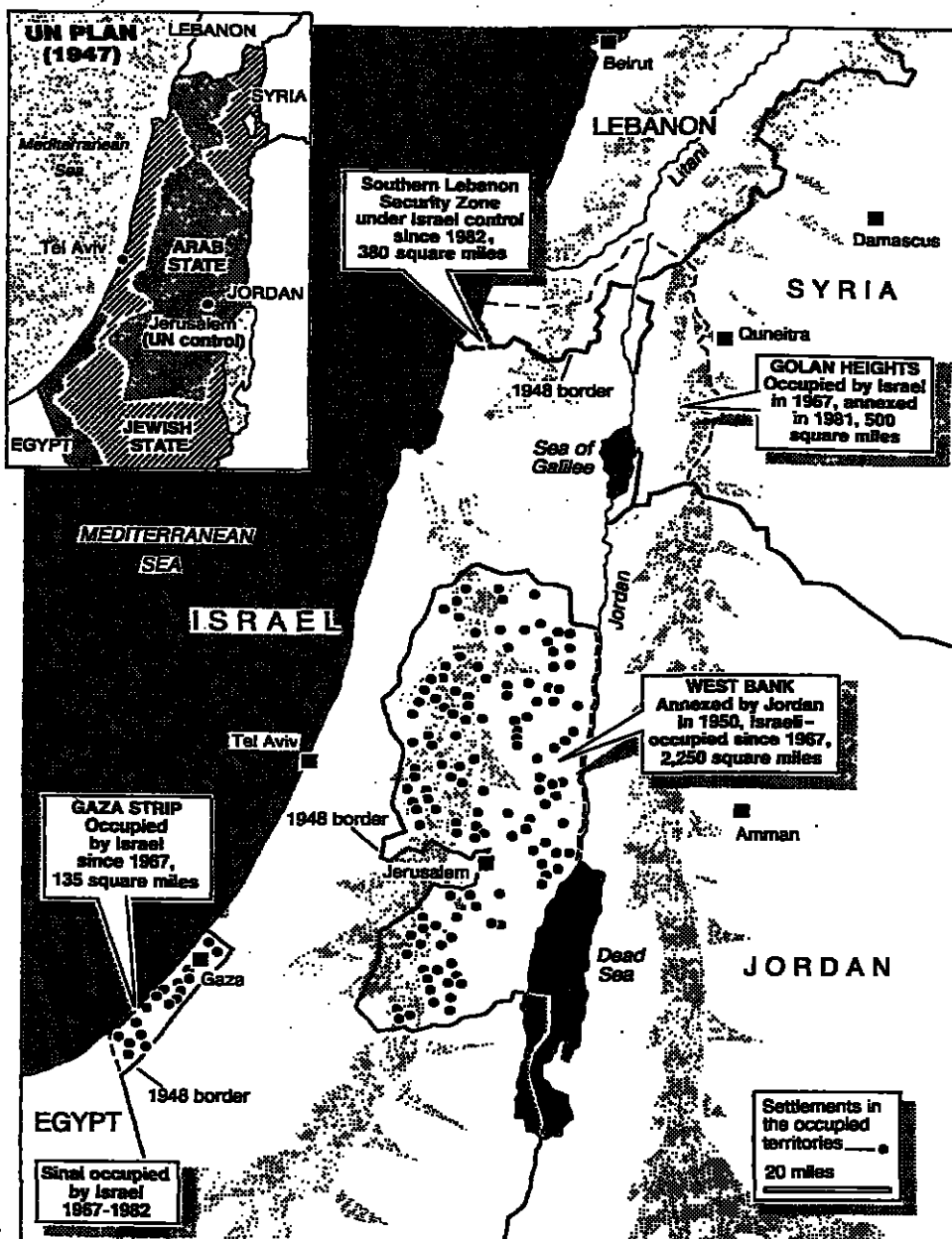
In Beirut yesterday, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, the secretary-general of Hezbollah, said there would be more guerrilla attacks to mark today as a

"day of Islamic wrath" and to demonstrate his Iranian-backed group's fervent opposition to engaging in any peace talks with Israel.

In the run-up to the peace conference, there have been at least six attacks on the Israelis and their militia allies in the past eight days, and one Israeli air raid. On Monday night, gunmen from a Palestinian extremist group opened fire on a busload of Jewish settlers in the West Bank, killing two and wounding six. The attacks are a clear indication that the Middle East's guns will not be silent while the Arab and Israeli negotiators meet across the negotiating table in Madrid.

One Israeli official yesterday laid some of the responsibility for the attacks on the Syrian and Lebanese governments which, he said, wanted to scuttle the Madrid talks. The unidentified official, quoted on the Voice of the South, a radio station run by Israel's proxy militia force, accused Syria of giving the go-ahead to guerrillas based in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley to attack Israel.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 16



Years of conflict shape political landscape

TODAY'S opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid marks a considerable achievement in bringing together Israelis and Arabs in an attempt to resolve a conflict which began in earnest after the second world war and has progressed and hardened over the years.

1947: Abortive United Nations plan for the partition of Palestine after Arab-Jewish strife under the British Mandate, which began in 1922 after Britain's victory over Ottoman Turkey, until then the dominant Middle East power. British position increasingly untenable as Zionist immigration to Palestine in wake of Nazi persecution in Europe heightens Arab-Jewish conflict.

1948: Britain gives up mandate. State of Israel created and immediately attacked by Arab forces in the Arab-Israeli war, ending in 1949 with Israel in control of the coastal strip, the south and the north, Jerusalem divided and Jordan in control of the West Bank. Palestinians flock to West Bank and Jordan; Arabs claim they were expelled; Israel says they fled.

1956: Suez war, involving Egypt, Israel, Britain and France, ends in UN ceasefire. Israel gained, then gave back Sinai and Gaza.

1964: Creation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, recognised ten years later at the Arab summit in Rabat as the sole legitimate representative

of the Palestinians. PLO wages "armed struggle" against Israel.

1967: Six-day war waged by Egypt, Jordan and Syria against Israel ends in Israeli victory, with Israel gaining control of the whole of Jerusalem and occupying the West Bank (Jordanian), Sinai and the Gaza Strip (Egyptian) as well as the Golan Heights (Syrian, with a UN buffer zone). Further flood of Palestinian refugees. Golan Heights annexed by Israel in 1981.

1970: King Hussein of Jordan expels the PLO after bitter street fighting, dubbed "Black September". PLO finds new base in Lebanon.

1973: Yom Kippur war breaks out when Egypt attacks Israel on its day of prayer and fasting. Initial Egyptian success followed by Israeli counter-attack, ending in UN ceasefire and inconclusive Geneva peace talks. Israel's 1967 territorial gains unchanged.

1977: President Sadat of Egypt makes historic trip to Jerusalem. Camp David peace accord negotiated by Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, with President Carter mediating, ending in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979. Second part of Camp David, on Palestinian self rule, never implemented.

1978: Israeli incursion into

Lebanon across the Litani river to root out Palestinian gunmen.

1982: Israeli invasion of Lebanon in Operation Peace for Galilee, ending in 1985 with PLO expulsion to Tunis, an Israeli withdrawal, and the establishment of an Israeli-controlled "security zone" in southern Lebanon as a buffer against attacks.

1987: Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, the intifada, begins in the Gaza Strip and swiftly spreads to the West Bank.

1988: PLO for the first time acknowledges Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism, although acts of terror by splinter groups continue.

1989: Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli prime minister, formulates Israeli plan for Palestinian autonomy. America seeks to use that as basis for renewed peace process, but plan founders on problem of Palestinian representation and the question of Jerusalem.

1991: In the aftermath of the Gulf war against Iraq, during which Israel suffers Scud attacks but refrains from retaliation, America builds on new regional alignments and changed Soviet role to persuade Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel to attend a peace conference in Madrid, with a Palestinian team acceptable to Israel forming part of the Jordanian delegation. The PLO is formally excluded.

Richard Owen, page 16

Democracy in Africa

Mudslinging blots out issues in Zambia poll

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CAMPAIGNING has become more intense and dirtier in advance of tomorrow's election in Zambia, its first multi-party poll in 27 years.

Real issues have taken a back seat as President Kaunda, aged 67, and Frederick Chiluba, of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy, his main rival, have engaged in increasingly bitter mudslinging. Dr Kaunda has depicted the rival party as "a bunch of crooks". To reinforce his point, on Sunday he released a list of 25 people, three of them opposition candidates, implicated in drug dealing six years ago. The opposition has retaliated with attacks and innuendo aimed at the presi-

dent's family.

Prime-time television alternately screens images of the diminutive but imperious Mr Chiluba, immaculate in Italian suits, and the greying president exhorting his countrymen to "vote for your tested leadership". But, as the articulate Mr Chiluba has pointed out, there are real policy differences between Mr Kaunda's United National Independence Party and his own, which draws support from the unions, businesses and others in urban areas, says it favours a free market economy, is opposed to subsidies and wants to privatise even Zambia's mainstay mining

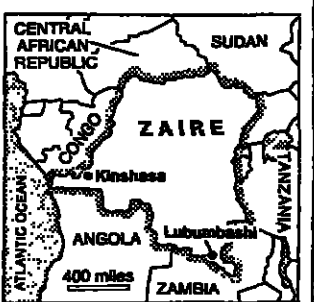
sector and attract foreign investment. For lack of any alternative, the governing party over the past few years has reluctantly yielded to International Monetary Fund and World Bank pressure to liberalise the economy, which has been in decline since the fall in copper prices in the early 1970s.

Donor nations abruptly cut off aid when Zambia defaulted on a World Bank arrears payment last month, and any future Lusaka administration will have to work hard to restore confidence among donors. A Zambian economic analyst said: "There are tough decisions that have to be made and little room for manoeuvre."

In a nation of eight million people, heavy state intervention in the economy has led to a huge foreign debt and chronic shortages of even such basics as maize meal. A snap survey in the streets of Lusaka revealed that the Movement for Multiparty Democracy commands a clear majority among voters.

At least 300 candidates are contesting the 150 parliamentary seats in a first-past-the-post race. There are 2.9 million registered voters out of a population of 7.8 million. A presidential candidate needs 51 per cent of the total vote to win.

Political analysts expect the Movement for Multiparty Democracy to sweep the heavily urbanised Copperbelt and Lusaka areas. But they say a question mark hangs over the traditionally conservative rural vote and the choices women voters will make. Diplomats and political analysts



Belgium ignores Mobutu

By SAM KILEY

BELGIUM has ignored President Mobutu's demand to withdraw troops from Zaire and has sent in an extra 100 soldiers to help with the final exodus of foreigners from Kinshasa, the capital, and ten regional collection points.

About 750 Belgian and 150 French troops, supervising the evacuation of expatriates who stayed on after rioting and looting broke out at the end of September, have been ordered to leave.

Zaire's opposition movement, the Sacred Union, yesterday called on the United Nations to send a "buffer force" to maintain order, but rejected a Belgian plan to ask the Organisation of African Unity to intervene.

In Brussels, the Sacred Union said that Belgium, as the former colonial power, had a "moral and historical obligation" to use its influence at the UN to persuade other countries to contribute to a peacekeeping force.

South Africa has closed its trade mission in Kinshasa and flown its staff to Johannesburg, diplomatic sources said.

● Brussels: A Belgian paratrooper was killed and six people were injured when a grenade exploded accidentally during the evacuation of foreigners from Zaire via Rwanda, an army spokesman said yesterday. (Reuters)



Kaunda: depicting rivals as bunch of crooks

few possible post-election violence if the United National Independence Party sweeps the board, given the popularity of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy which has attracted huge audiences at rallies.

If the Movement for Multiparty Democracy wins, it would be the first change of ruling party in the history of modern Zambia. President Kaunda declared the country a one-party state in December 1972.

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The habit of a lifetime

Western European Union talks

UK and France fail to heal defence rift

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BRITAIN and France failed yesterday to narrow their fundamental differences about the future shape of European defence during a special Western European Union meeting held in the government guesthouse atop the Petersberg near Bonn, where Chamberlain saw Hitler just before Munich.

The lack of progress on defining a "European defence identity" highlighted how difficult it is going to be for a

treaty on political union to be ready for signature at the European Community summit in Maastricht. The WEU meets again on November 18 when Britain wants clear guidelines for the future drawn up, although France insists that the EC summit must have the final say.

The two countries, at opposite ends of the argument over whether the EC should assume responsibility one day for European defence, largely

restated their entrenched positions. Britain insisted that Nato must be in overall charge, with America and Canada closely involved. France looked forward to the day when Europeans could take care of their own security. Germany, which had called the extra meeting in its capacity as chairman this year of the WEU, tried without any discernible success, to bridge the gap.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Tom King, the defence secretary, came seeking clarity about the WEU's future role but left feeling that the discussions had been "un-focused".

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, readily accepted the "primacy" of Nato at present, but said that Europeans must now start "thinking about their own security in Europe and for Europe".

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German minister who chaired the meeting, was happy that the need for "a European defence system" was now accepted by all and said that what had to be studied now was the role of the WEU "in a new European security architecture". Herr Genscher, however, like M Dumas, seemed to be unable to further the argument because the Franco-German initiative had been drawn up between their heads of government without prior consultation.

One diplomatic observer remarked: "It seemed that since God had spoken on this subject, the archangels could say nothing." Herr Genscher, who gave a bland résumé of the meeting to the press, nevertheless reacted strongly when asked whether there had been any talk of the WEU organising a force to operate out of Nato's area. There had been no such discussions, he said, although other delegations said that the matter had been very much part of the meeting.

According to Mr Hurd, discussions centered on the Anglo-Italian proposal for a WEU force to function outside the Nato area and on the Franco-German proposal for a WEU force to function inside the Nato area. "We want to see a clear understanding of what the links would be between the WEU and European political union and WEU and Nato," he said. That needed to be settled before we decide on a treaty. "We shall continue to press for all kinds of clarity... I believe we should reach agreement at Maastricht if we can, but not at any price."

The decision to close the plant is aply timed, coming a month before the Ukraine's referendum on independence. have risen to between 8 and 200 billion roubles (up to £20 billion at the official tourist rate of exchange), depending on sources. The latest treatment for the plant is expected to add a further 2.5 billion roubles (£250 million), a bill the republic can simply not afford. Social security guarantees and job retraining will be offered to the citizens of Slavutych, a new town itself built on a radioactive hotspot which was designed to rehouse some of the 50,000 evacuees from the town of Pripyat.

"We have learned the lesson that we live communally on this planet. Chernobyl is everybody's problem and we are grateful for all the help that we receive," said Volodymyr Shovkoshyn, a deputy.

By November 15 a committee will have begun work devising alternative ways of accounting for the three per cent of the Ukraine's energy needs which were met by Chernobyl, the parliament decided, although the republic's other 12 reactors continue running.

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Byword for catastrophe: the Chernobyl nuclear plant

Ukraine to shut down Chernobyl

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE Chernobyl power station, the catalyst behind the Ukraine's drive for independence and scene of the 1986 nuclear disaster whose consequences will take decades to assess, is to be shut as soon as possible, the Ukraine's parliament decided yesterday.

The vote to close the reactors, which will take 18 months, brings to an end the life of a nuclear power station whose name became a byword throughout the world for humanity's fear of nuclear power. Inside Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia, Chernobyl epitomised the impression of secrecy which lay at the heart of the Soviet system.

Describing the power plant as "an object of extreme danger" the republic's Chernobyl commission told parliament here that it was impossible to bring the power plant in line with modern safety standards. A fire earlier this month caused a "sharp increase in social and psychological tensions in the population", according to the report.

An appeal to the United Nations is requesting help in decommissioning the reactors whose clean-up costs to date



Playtime victim: a boy, aged 12, lies critically injured in hospital in Osijek, Croatia. He was hit by shrapnel while playing in a park. His playmate was killed

Hopeful sign for Yeltsin

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, yesterday won a long-running battle to have Ruslan Khasbulatov, his close ally, elected chairman of the republic's parliament. The victory, announced yesterday morning after elections the previous evening, offered the first sign that Mr Yeltsin might be able to carry the Russian parliament with him in the radical reform programme he announced on Monday while also obtaining the emergency powers he is seeking.

The two deputy chairmen of parliament, Viktor Iseev and Svetlana Goryacheva, announced that they were resigning with immediate effect. Both had signed a public denunciation of Mr Yeltsin's leadership earlier in the year but had kept their positions.

Yugoslav aircraft bombard Vukovar

BY DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS FIGHTING in the area reached its fiercest in recent weeks, Yugoslav fighter-bombers yesterday launched three air strikes against the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, Croatian radio said.

The air raids came as the federal army said it would allow a fleet carrying relief supplies to dock at the besieged port of Dubrovnik. General Andrija Raseta, the deputy commander of the fifth military region, which includes Croatia, said the army reserved the right to inspect the cargo of the vessels and the belongings of passengers. Stipe Mesic, the federal president, who is a Croat, plans to be on one of the ships, General Raseta said.

In Vukovar, where about 15,000 Croats have been holding out against an army siege for two months, the town's hospital is said to be overflowing with wounded. Inter-

Thankless task, page 1

Nuclear clock takes turn for better

By NICK NUTTALL TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

IN A move which appears to ignore potential chaos in the Soviet Union, developments in North Korea and nuclear discoveries in Iraq, the keepers of the nuclear Doomsday Clock are to move it back from midnight to reflect what they claim is a safer world.

The famous clock, which features on the front cover of the *Chicago Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, will retreat from global nuclear war on November 26 when the December issue of the magazine is published.

The clock, designed in 1947 by Maryl Langsdorf, wife of the physicist Alexander Langsdorf, accelerated towards nuclear catastrophe during the 1980s when stalemate on arms control talks, a proliferation in the nuclear arsenal and tension in Afghanistan, Poland and South Africa heightened concern.

Alan Lonsdale, assistant editor of the magazine, said yesterday that the board of directors and sponsors, which include distinguished nuclear scientists, would give their explanations for the optimistic move then. He would not reveal how far back the hands will be moved but said it "reflected world events" and denied that it was a publicity stunt.

This will be the fourteenth time that the clock's midnight deadline has been changed. In 1953 the time to all out nuclear war moved to 11.58pm after the United States successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.

The furthest it has stood from midnight was in 1963 when the clock was moved to 11.48pm to reflect the signing of the partial test ban treaty by the United States and the Soviet Union. It was moved to its present time, 11.50pm, last year following the end of the Cold War.

The decision to move back the clock has surprised anti-nuclear campaigners who see little cause for increased optimism. Declan McHugh of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in London said although encouraging moves continued to be made by President Gorbachev and President Bush, the number of countries on the threshold of a nuclear capability had risen to between ten and 15 including North Korea.

In addition there were serious concerns over the fate of the Soviet Union's estimated 25,000 nuclear weapons as the union fragmented. This also increased fears of terrorists gaining control of a nuclear device.

Solidarity party is in line to govern

Warsaw — The Polish communist party was level last night with the Solidarity-based Democratic Union as the final composition of the new, freely elected parliament was being worked out (Roger Boyes writes).

Even if the communists draw ahead, President Walesa is expected to ask the Democratic Union to form a coalition government. Yesterday he set out the priorities for the future government: privatisation, the recession, unemployment, security and crime.

Power sharing

Johannesburg — The government is prepared to amend the constitution to give black leaders a say in running South Africa pending a multiracial constitution, Gerrit Viljoen, minister of constitutional development, said. Parliament could make some changes but fundamental ones would need a referendum of white voters.

Temple arrest

Ayodhya — Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the former Indian prime minister, was arrested as he led 500 supporters to Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, to protest against an attempt by Hindus to take over the disputed mosque there. The authorities charged him with contravening the terms of a banning order. (Reuters)

Ciskei unrest

Johannesburg — The military government of the nominally independent Ciskei homeland, under Brigadier-General Oupa Gqozo, who seized power last year, has declared a state of emergency. It claimed that the African National Congress was fomenting terrorism and trying to destabilise it amid growing unrest. (AP)

Sanctions bite

Washington — One month after the military coup which toppled President Aristide, Haiti is about to run out of fuel, its economy is collapsing and food prices are soaring as international sanctions start to bite deep. The United States and Canada are introducing comprehensive trade embargos this week.

Test of memory

Stockholm — Four months after being found unconscious outside a bingo hall with "Joe Smith" engraved on his wrist chain, an amnesia victim has learnt who he is, police said. He is now committing his real, and more complicated, Tunisian name to memory. It is Djelassi Ali Ben Belgasem Ben Khami. (Reuters)

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As the Whitbread First Novel Award shortlist is announced, Nicolette Jones examines literary debuts

First ideas are often the most novel

Charles Dickens's first novel was *Pickwick Papers*, Emily Brontë's first (and only) was *Wuthering Heights*, Evelyn Waugh's was *Decline and Fall* and Kingsley Amis's was *Lucky Jim*. Even so, there are those who dismiss first novels as if they were first drafts, less likely to yield a glimpse of genius than the mature work of established names. And, increasingly, publishers are reluctant to take them on. At a time when hardback fiction hardly sells, first novels are the biggest gamble. There are no guaranteed sales to readers who loved the last book, reviews cannot always be relied upon (literary editors are often under pressure to cover known names), and most first novels sell fewer than a thousand copies.

What publishers desire most is the instant success epitomised by the industry legends, such as *Lord of the Flies*, which came out of a pile of unsolicited manuscripts in 1954. Its author, William Golding, went on to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983. Yet the 58 entries for this year's Whitbread First Novel Award show publishers are still prepared to make some brave decisions, while hoping to hit the literary jackpot.

The Whitbread judges have chosen a shortlist of five first novels, which are in the running for a £2,000 prize: the winner will be announced next Tuesday. If, as Paul Sayer's *The Comforts of Madness* did in 1988, one of these beats the competition from the other four category awards — biography, children's books, poetry and other novels — it will win the Whitbread Book of the Year in January and a further £22,500.

This year's first novel shortlist is notable for its range, from the political to the off-the-wall. Although the judges believe their choices point towards distinguished literary careers, the selection is strong on entertainment: each, in its different way, offers laughs. Surprisingly, this includes the most controversial, Helen Zahavi's *Dirty*

Weekend (Macmillan £13.99), about a female killer who retaliates against obscene phone callers, lechers, rapists and murderers. The four other shortlisted novels are: Elspeth Barker's beautiful, delicate *O Caledonia* (Hamish Hamilton £14.99), the story of a young girl's misunderstood adolescence in a big Scottish house; Gordon Burn's *Alma Cogan* (Secker £13.99), which reinvents the Fifties vocalist as a literate observer of her scrupulously evoked times; Ivor Gound's wild, comic masterpiece *A Smoking Dot in the Distance* (Sinclair-Stevenson £14.95), described by one judge as "like a comic strip by Dickens"; and Joseph O'Connor's tale of Irish punk Eddie Virago, who takes his haircut, his guitar and his hopes of stardom to London in *Cowboys and Indians* (Sinclair-Stevenson £12.95).

'At a time when hardback fiction hardly sells, first novels are the biggest gamble'

One reason why publishers take on such books is in the hope of "building" authors, in-out of a pile of unsolicited manuscripts in 1954. Its author, William Golding, went on to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983. Yet the 58 entries for this year's Whitbread First Novel Award show publishers are still prepared to make some brave decisions, while hoping to hit the literary jackpot.

Their refusals were unanimous and it did not get into print until, 50 years later, publishers would publish anything that had my name on it." Even Shaw admits that *Immaturity* would not have made his reputation, but the best editors catch potential early. Salman Rushdie's first editor, Liz Calder, remembers publishing *Grimus* — not only Rushdie's first novel but the first book she had ever taken on. "It was a disaster for both of us. It wasn't well reviewed, and it didn't sell well." But Calder "had never read anything like it. He was clearly very gifted." The book was briefly reissued, and after Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* won the Booker Prize, it was back in print.

Calder's career did fine too; she went on to publish Julian Barnes's



Famous first: Dickens's *Pickwick Papers*, filmed with Cecil Trower, James Hayter and Jack MacNaughton

first novel, his acclaimed *Metroland* — a rite-of-passage book, like most first novels, but an outstanding one — and Anita Brookner's appropriately named *A Start in Life*. Even so, Calder, as editorial director of Bloomsbury publishers, admits that "now is not the time to do large numbers of first novels because you could go bust."

In some instances the triumphant first was also the author's only book, such as Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* (which has sold 10 million copies), or his most significant, such as J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*. Sometimes success comes to unexpected books — Kerri Hulme's *The Bone People*, for instance, which won the Booker Prize in 1985.

Some publishers try to engineer success by throwing money at commercial novels. The publisher of Sally Beauman's *Destiny* says "it was designed to be a very commercial book" and in 1987 its £341,000 advance broke records for a first novel. The tactic worked: it sold some 20,000 copies in Britain in hardback and 650,000 in paperback.

One way publishers reduce the first novel risk is by commissioning from star names (viz Stephen Fry, Ben Elton, Joan Collins). Alternatively, the writer has to have a "track record" — in journalism, for instance. Charles Dickens, for example, had attracted attention for his *Sketches by Boz*, in various journals, and publishers Chapman and Hall

approached him. *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* came out in 20 monthly instalments in 1836 and in book form the next year.

Of course, today's first-time authors also have the cinema to help them. The investment in some first novel ventures pays dividends if the film rights are sold, since films boost book sales. Among those fortunate few are Marti Leimbach's *Dying Young*, which now has Julia Roberts playing its heroine, and Josephine Hart's 1990 debut, *Damage*, in which the film rights have gone to Louis Malle. Even Dickens enjoyed screen success, albeit well after his death. *The Pickwick Papers* was turned into a film — as virtually all his novels were — where it probably reached as great an audience as his first novel did.

OPERA: WEXFORD FESTIVAL

Besieged and bewitched by rare Donizetti

Hilary Finch rediscovers a trio of unjustifiably neglected works

A rare opera which has been given a single performance somewhere in Europe within the last two decades may well be shunned as shop-soiled by the Wexford International Opera Festival, with its tireless, even obsessive interest in exhumation. Imagine the consternation, then, when it was discovered that this year's *pièce de résistance*, Donizetti's *L'assedio di Calais*, had been given a showing only last September in Bergamo, the composer's home town.

Wexford, though, need feel no great disappointment on being pipped at the post. Not only is its production only the second this century, but its stature serves thrillingly to reveal that of the opera itself. *L'assedio* is one of those truly rare creatures: a neglected opera that really did not ever deserve to be overlooked.

The 1347 siege of Calais inspired Donizetti to create one of his most propulsive dramatic structures, hurled forward by robust choruses, superbly orchestrated connecting scenes, highly charged moments of recitative, and arias of extraordinary fertility. The musical ebb and flow of the chorus of citizens, the clarinet solo which opens Act II, Eleanor's own gasping cabaletta of joy which greets the English reprieve of the execution of the six noble burghers: all reveal Donizetti at the height of his powers.

As the stage itself inspired Donizetti, so his work has inspired Francesca Zambello (of the *Earls Court* *Tosca*) to create a staging of strong simplicity. In Alison Chitty's subdued costumes of dull and ragged blues, greys and browns, crowns and individualism interlate in firm, expressive formation within a single bare landscape. Silken banners flout out from pikes for the exterior of war; a single silken drape and candles suggest an interior.

The opera also shows Wexford casting at its best. The tiny Theatre Royal flatters the smallest and youngest of voices, but the Dublin-born mezzo-soprano Alison Browner is something else besides. Germany has heard more of her so far, though she was Covent Garden's Cenerentola last year. Her intelligent and richly expressive Aurelio (the travesty role of the Mayor of Calais's son) is the dominant memory, although this is by no means a single-star opera.

Ann Panagoulas's Eleanor, Victor Ledbetter's Mayor Eustachio and Elizabeth Woollett's Isabella of England all made their mark under the sympathetic baton of Italian *bel canto* expert, Evelino Pidò. Here, and throughout the festival, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and, in particular, the accomplished Wexford Festival Chorus, were potent *dramatis personae* in their own right.

The Donizetti was a hard act to follow. Gluck was next in line and he had to suffer the added disadvantage of being represented by an opera with both recognisable echoes of his own *Orfeo* and with blatant pre-echoes of Mozart's *Il seraglio*. The spell of far Arabia has stolen away the wits of many a composer: Gluck's *La Rencontre imprévue* (or *The Pilgrims of Mecca*) was the unashamed prototype for Mozart's harem-escape opera.

Despite a weaker, less fully

developed dramatic structure (two Arab-bashing comic acts basically frame one central love-interest act), Jamie Hayes's inventive production persuaded us that this opera deserves to be enjoyed far more than as a mere template.

Richard Hickox brought out the fun of the Frenchified comic songs which charter in between the familiar tinkling orchestral exotica and lavished care on the stately, pulsing arias of love, reminiscent of *Orfeo*.

Paul Austin Kelly's Ali relished his aria of lost love which was all but a well-shuffled "Che farò". He certainly had all the notes, too, even if they lacked the changing lights and shades essential to this type of writing. Janet Williams was a melting Rezia, and Christopher Hux a resonant servant Osmin. Malcolm Walker, inflicted with the all but superfluous part of the mad French painter, Vertigo, acquitted himself with convincingly Gallic panache.

The sense of *trompe l'oeille* in the work's multifarious musical echoes was matched by the *trompe l'oeil* of Ruari Murchison's virtuoso set. He turned a pyramid inside out



Staging of strong simplicity: Edoardo (Kurt Ollman) in *L'assedio di Calais*

and on its side and created a series of sand-yellow and burning sky-blue interiors out of its permutations.

Such purely visual flair was matched the following evening by John Lloyd Davies's self-designed production of *Der Widerspenstigen Zähmung* (or *The Taming of the Shrew*). This was the swansong of Hermann Goetz who died of tuberculosis at 35. The trouble with the opera is that while the action is comic, the score and the heavily metrical libretto are hardly side-splitting.

Lloyd Davies dominated the proceedings with sets and costumes incarnating Mondrian's colourful geometry. The effect, despite some lush singing from the fine Finnish soprano Mari Sauramo as Katherine and William Parcher as Petruchio the shrew-tamer, was somewhat oppressive. Even Oliver von Dohnányi's obviously committed baton could not quite make a case for this year's opera number three.

HILARY FINCH

GEORGE C. SCOTT has got the new Broadway season off to a convivial start as star and director of *On Borrowed Time* (Circle in the Square Theatre).

Paul Osborn's 1938 play about a grandfather who keeps death imprisoned in an apple tree while he contrives a future for his orphaned grandson provides warm-hearted entertainment in Scott's staging. As the pipe-smoking, swearing Gramps, Scott plays all of the variations of his gruff persona. To add mellower tones, he has a fine supporting company which includes Teresa Wright as Granny.

The New York City Opera keeps reviving Broadway musicals and keeps getting better at it. Last season's *A Little Night Music* won a brace of theatre awards and was filmed for television. The company's new production of Frank Loesser's 1957 *The Most Happy Fella* is just as worthy.

After his success with *Gypsy* and *Dolls*, Loesser aimed at composing a musical closer to opera, and Arthur Allan Seidman's vibrant production shows how richly Loesser moved towards aria in such songs as "My Heart is So Full of You", while preserving musical comedy tradition in

THEATRE: NEW YORK

Big Apple rosy, bar a few worms

rousers such as "Big D". Lara Tester, the dancer-singer who partnered Natalia Makarova in *On Your Toes*, leads a dynamic cast, making a welcome return to the New York stage after lecturing in theatre in California.

A sort of extended recitative occurs in *Ben Appetit*, two musical monologues for which American opera composer Lee Hoiby (*Summer and Smoke*, *The Tempest*) has set to music a Ruth Draper classic and a Julia Child recipe. Jean Stapleton, famed as Edith Bunker in the television series *All in the Family*, stars in the show which launches the 25th season of Off-Broadway's CSC Theatre.

Directed by Carey Perloff, with affection for the reality of both characters and the wry humour of the material, Stapleton is distractingly amiable throughout. The main character is a socialite trying to take an Italian lesson while

juggling phone calls, children, servants and a puppy.

The second monologue is a recipe for chocolate cake. British audiences unfamiliar with Julia Child, a beloved television gourmet in America, should imagine Barbara Woodhouse demonstrating recipes to get the tenor of this cheerily eccentric entertainment.

THE new Variety Arts Theatre, created from an old pornography cinema, has just opened with *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. The overnight critics' response to one of the most expensive musicals in Off-Broadway history was a chorus of jeers, but the new downtown venue for this slickly mounted show gives it a better chance if good word-of-mouth from cult fans is not overthrown by Americans' resistance even to scrambled Shakespearean dialogue.

Two new plays about young adults with stultifying prob-

lems in the areas of mental illness, sex, drugs and relationships have similarly gloomy scenarios (all is lost) and messages (the environment's to blame), though Timothy Mason's *Babylon Gardens* is set in Manhattan and Canadian Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains* and the *True Nature of Love* takes place in Edmonton. Attractive and able casts help the modestly accomplished authors, but both shows are hard work.

Just as depressing in content, but exhilarating for the promise of its 17-year-old writer Carlotta Zimmerman, is *Man At His Best*. The one-act is one of four to win first prize professional productions in the Foundation of Dramatists Guild 1991 Young Playwrights Festival, an event initiated ten years ago by Stephen Sondheim when he was Guild President.

Zimmerman's *Man At His Best* recalls *Kiss of the Spider Woman* in its dialogue between two caged convicts, but her variations are startlingly precocious and theatrical, and set New York's new theatrical season in a moderately positive direction.

HOLLY HILL



Warm-hearted entertainment: *On Borrowed Time* with Nathan Lane (left), George C. Scott and Matthew Ponce

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Silver lining?

IN ONE respect, the orchestral pay dispute that has shut the Royal Opera House is good news for the Royal Ballet. The company had announced for tonight a revival of Jerome Robbins's *Afternoon of a Faun*. That became a problem, however, when Robbins (who insists on reviving his own work) was too busy to rehearse it. The revival was shelved, leaving the company with an awkward hole in its programme: luckily, the theatre's closure gives it time to find an alternative.

Chilling choice

WITH admirable speed, the Liverpool Playhouse has picked up the pieces of its autumn season, which was wrecked by the row between John Osborne and Peter O'Toole that led to the cancellation of Osborne's *Djinn*. In its place, the Playhouse is staging Susan Hill's spine-chilling novel, *The Woman in Black* — also running at the Fortune Theatre in London.

BRIEFING

Richard Todd, of *Dam Busters* and *Robin Hood* fame, stars in the Liverpool production, opening on November 13.

Arias again

GENOA's handsome Teatro Carlo Felice, built in 1828 and gutted by British incendiary bombs in 1943, has finally been reopened with a production of *Il trovatore*. A four-year reconstruction, costing £69 million, was funded by the government, the city and the Genoa-based petrol company Erg. The architect Ignazio Gardella has restored most of the original exterior, but transformed the inside with state-of-the-art computer technology, providing a revolve of four stages.

Notable chair

THE London Philharmonic took a vital step towards settling its internal dispute on Sunday when, after a seven-week impasse, the players elected a new chairman, Simon Channing. David Marcou, the previous chairman, who resigned in the summer

with four other players on the orchestral board, was chosen as deputy chairman. The deadlock was broken on the insistence of the musical director, Franz Welser-Möst, who wanted to get the orchestra's administration on an even keel before the Arts Council considers its subsidy for next year.

Last chance...

ENGLISH National Opera's revival of Puccini's *La Bohème* received the thumbs down when it opened in September, mainly because of a poor tenor and a strident conductor. Both have now changed. Adrian Martin makes a winning Rodolfo and Justin Brown in the pit is full of promise, though the mutilation inflicted on Jean-Claude Auvray's original production by Julia Hollander (responsible for the resighting) remains. Last performance is at the Coliseum on Friday (071-836 3161).

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, dance and rock
Page 20

RECORDS: JAZZ

Passing into an electric band

ANDY Sheppard moves on again. After his uncompromising duets with avant-garde pianist Keith Tippett and the sprawling big band project *Soft On The Inside*, the West Country saxophonist has entered a promising electric phase.

In Co-Motion also marks a return to a more intimate scale. With the big band, Sheppard's resources were dangerously overstretched; here, leading a quintet, he cuts a more authoritative figure. Amid the high-volume compositions, he resists the temptation to fall back on the clichés of jazz-rock.

This is an abrasive and visceral set with few moments of repose. Sheppard cutting jagged lines against the backdrop provided by the keyboard player Steve Lodder. While there is still a self-indulgent streak in the saxophone solos, it is much less pronounced than in his previous studio work.

As with the band's recent live dates, the one incon-

gruous element is Claude Deppa's trumpet. His raw aggression may give him the edge over more polished technicians, but he lacks clarity and tends to flounder whenever he enters the upper register.

Like Sheppard, Steve Williamson has become a symbol of the new British jazz. For his second album, *Rhyme Time* (That Fuss Was Us) (Nerve 511235).

gruous element is Claude Deppa's trumpet. His raw aggression may give him the edge over more polished technicians, but he lacks clarity and tends to flounder whenever he enters the upper register.

M-Base — roughly speaking, an amalgam of funk, rap and jazz improvisation — sounds intriguing in principle, less so in reality. As each theme is scrupulously diced into inter-

locking rhythmic patterns, the overall impression is one of dancers trying to move with their feet tied together.

From a technical point of view, Williamson's version stands comparison with the work of the movement's leader, Steve Coleman. He deserves credit for venturing onto this sticky territory; nevertheless the shelf-life of this album is strictly limited.

CLIVE DAVIS

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Time for revolution at the BBC

With the BBC Charter soon under review, the government wants evidence of value for money. John Birt, director-general in waiting, explains why the Corporation is shifting to the marketplace

UNDER mounting political pressure, the BBC has begun to chip away at what is widely perceived as its massive bureaucratic edifice. Eager to assure politicians that the Corporation is as efficient as any commercial broadcaster before debate begins on the renewal of its Royal Charter, the BBC's senior management has adopted the government's favoured cure for the National Health Service. Money is now to follow BBC programmes in the same way money is supposed to follow NHS patients.

Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, considers that the market reforms, along with the closure of excess studio capacity to be announced next week, will help squeeze a possible £50 million out of production and overhead costs in the next four years, as the Home Office requires.

"It is a job creation scheme for accountants," says Tony Lennon, co-president of Bectu, the broadcasting union. "Many jobs will be lost in the production side, while the BBC will be forced to hire a far higher proportion of pen-pushing

bureaucrats to run the new costing system." Mr Checkland admitted yesterday that the shake-up will actually create new jobs. John Birt, his deputy who is to succeed him in 1993, was quick to add, however, that there will be a net reduction in staff. Both were adamant that the new system will wipe out the bureaucracy and free more money for programme making.

They deny that the new internal market is the first step towards privatisation. Both Mr Checkland and Mr Birt say the BBC is holding true to its public service remit by preventing BBC resource departments from soliciting business from the commercial channels. "We are asking them to break even, not make a profit," says a glossy pamphlet handed out to BBC department heads yesterday.

But the unions believe the BBC's own resource services are more cost-efficient than anything on offer outside and that the only way the BBC will meet its cost-cutting objective is to axe them, thereby limiting producer choice.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



Charity begins at home: a scene from the BBC's *The Men's Room*, the kind of programme which in future may be made outside the BBC

From April 1993 television in the BBC will be organised on the basis of a system we are calling Producer Choice. This system should ensure that the whole business of programme-making at the BBC will become at least as efficient as any of our competitors in independent and satellite television.

From April 1993 we will cease to fund almost all BBC activity direct from the top. Rather, programme departments (such as drama, entertainment and sport) and producers will hold the funds. They will be free to buy facilities for their programmes — studios, outside broadcast units and so on — from inside and outside the BBC.

Studios, outside broadcasts, graphics and film departments, the facility providers, will compete for business — their funding dependent on their ability to attract business from BBC producers on grounds of quality and price.

Producer Choice will bring great benefits:

- It will put programme makers in the prime responsibility for spending programme funds — for controlling the whole of a programme's true cost
- With money to spend — rather than facilities to bid for — programme makers should spend money more wisely and we should see greater value for money on the screen

- and with choice about where to spend their budgets, programme makers should be able to buy resources of the quality they need at the best price — and again we should see the value on the screen.

Producer Choice will also:

- expose our programme makers to new ways and methods of working
- and it will give programme makers greater opportunity to assemble teams of their choosing — including, where they wish,



Birt: rules of competition

creative people and technicians of talent from outside the BBC.

The role of facility providers will change. They will compete for resource business within the BBC — improving and developing their services, and marketing them to maximise business — rather than working to plans provided by others. Facility providers too will have greater freedom over their own affairs. They will be free to set their prices — their first objective to break-even.

There will be few constraints. One, however, is clear: we want to invest the licence fee in programmes for our viewers and listeners. We want to set the level of BBC resources only in order to service BBC programmes.

True marginal capacity — capacity still unsold, still available last hours or days before the due date — may be sold to outside producers. But capacity in a resource unit should not be set with anything in mind other than competing for BBC production.

We call the system "Producer Choice". But it could as easily — if less ringingly — be called user choice. Because behind Producer Choice is the idea that wherever possible in the BBC we want to simplify and clarify relationships: cut out bureaucracy; devolve power; design the system around customer-supplier relationships,

with the customer as fund-holder.

Facility providers are customers too. We will move wherever possible — and we want to see the bare minimum excluded — to give resource providers discretion over their spending decisions — the services they buy.

Programmes and facility providers will have to carry all the costs that independent producers and facility houses outside the BBC also have to bear. Everyone in the BBC will be charged:

- a rent for the accommodation and space they use;
- the cost of the capital they employ — the capital tied up in facilities, for example;
- a share of all overheads — excluding only the cost of governance, of transmitters, and of assembling and promoting the network schedules.

All users will have an incentive:

- to use the minimum of space;
- to use the minimum of capital they can be sure of recovering through the sale of their services;
- to see overheads brought down to an effective but competitive minimum.

BBC resource providers will

want these fixed costs reduced because they will be under pressure to keep the prices they charge for facilities — their rate cards — competitive with outside facilities.

We plan an overhead initiative — involving both customers and suppliers — to reduce overheads to a minimum by April 1993; and by April 1994, we shall devise and institute systems to ensure that every overhead function has a direct price relationship with its customers — with overhead services ideally being paid for item by item, or by voluntary subscription.

But for resource providers to be competitive — for unit costs to be low — managers must also ensure that their plant and facilities are heavily utilised; and that their productivity matches best industry practice for work of quality.

As with overheads, we plan a

productivity initiative so that resource providers — but also programme controllers and the centre — can inform themselves just what best industry practice is. Funding for programmes will be based on best industry practice.

As for the utilisation of plant — studios, outside broadcast units and so on: we have more plant and facilities than we will need in 1993 when 25 per cent of programmes will be made by independents. The Regional and Network Television Directorates plan to announce specific capacity reductions shortly. That surplus capacity will be reduced by April 1993. After that date plant utilisation rates will be high.

We will reduce in-house capacity not to match in-house demand, but to come just below it. This is to ensure a smooth launch for Producer Choice. If surplus capac-

ity were not removed before Producer Choice is launched, there would be adverse consequences: money would leave the BBC as some BBC producers purchased outside facilities; and a similar sum would be needed to finance the losses of BBC facility providers unable to sell the facilities that BBC producers had vacated.

The BBC would thus pay twice over; and money would be wasted rather than spent on programmes. Alternatively, there would be sudden dislocation as BBC resource providers quickly reduced their costs to ensure that they met their break-even targets.

All advice is that to ensure Producer Choice works smoothly when it is instituted, we should have a reduced level of capacity, a competitive overhead structure and productive working methods.

Carefully managed actions over the next 16 months will avoid a crisis later.

The only other significant constraint on choice is the over-ride. In exceptional circumstances — if, for example, our producers flocked away from a particular resource — the Director-General may agree to over-ride Producer Choice and to oblige BBC producers — for a finite period (not exceeding 6 months) — to use the facility in question.

If it is used, it will only be to give senior managers, and the facility in question, time to establish why the resource is not competitive — whether on grounds of quality or price — and time to take action to adjust, so that a break-even target may then be achieved.

I do not expect the over-ride to be used. The quality of craft skills

in the BBC sets the industry standard across the world. Craft skills are as integral a part of the success of BBC programmes as other creative skills.

Provided the price is right the BBC will retain a substantial craft skills base — not because of any central dictate — but because BBC programme makers will find that the BBC facility providers offer unmatched quality. The exact size of our resource base, though, will be determined by the scale of the demand, for BBC craft skills from BBC producers.

The main benefit of Producer Choice is the greater freedom it will give producers to make key decisions about their programmes. But there are other benefits.

Producer Choice should invigorate the management of the BBC — ensuring greater clarity of role and responsibility; and far wider discretion. Producer Choice will bring clear information about the full, total cost of our programmes; and about the precise cost of our records.

We will have unarguable information with which to persuade a sceptical world — and those who will scrutinise us keenly during the Charter Renewal process — that in a new era of Channel 3 publisher-contractors and a growing independent facility sector, the BBC is at least as efficient as any of its competitors. With Producer Choice, the jibes about over-manning will end. We shall have a programme-driven BBC, with a lean and competitive resource base — but a BBC still very much a centre of craft excellence.

HOW INSPECTOR WEXFORD WOOS VIEWERS FROM THE BBC

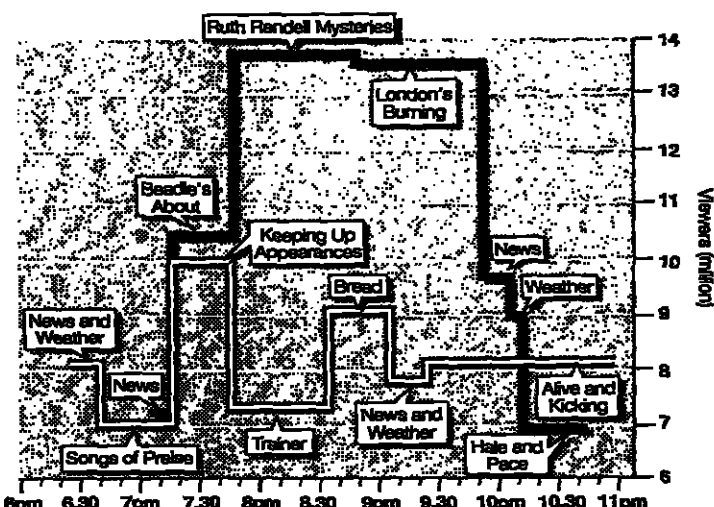
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However, the BBC still has one option — it could buy the TVS series.

In the chart (right) BBC viewing figures for October 13 are shown in white, ITV in black.

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WHICH?

Deirdre Sanders. The letters come on paper with embossed addresses, on the backs of envelopes, or office invoice slips or, saddest of all, they come depressed and crumpled on paper that has a cheery Smokey at the top. There are crazy letters in there, ink from crazy people, there are shabby letters from the elderly and there are dreadful wanky letters in the form of writing from people I

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Virginia Ironside, an agony aunt for 12 years, on the questions no one can resist asking her

How do you survive the agony?

I imagine the scene. My neighbour has just had a new baby and her partner has thrown a party to celebrate. I arrive, fluffily tatty, in hand, eager to chuck the little chap under the chin.

But just as I am about to plunge through the fray to deliver my gift, my way is barred by a big, beaming, red-faced man in a blazer.

"Brother-in-law," says the blazer, holding out his hand for a shake. "Let me get you a drink."

"Thanks — I must give this present to..."

"Great night for a party," he says. "Having a good time?"

"Yes."

"So," he says, "And what do you do for a living?"

"I'm a journalist."

"Oh! Better watch what I say, eh?"

Should never have said I was a journalist. Should have learned by now.

"So what do you scribble, then? Women's stuff? Political stuff?"

"I answer people's problems."

"I should have never said that. I should have..."

"Ah! The agony aunt! They told me about you!"

His expression is pure victory. "How absolutely fascinating!"

"It is. And what do you do?"

"You must get an awful lot of letters!"

"Yes, but what do you do?"

"But isn't it terribly depressing?"

Sighing, I lean against the wall and begin. "Not a bit," I say, looking surreptitiously at my watch. The baby will still be around in an hour, surely. "Get me a drink and let me explain."

People often ask me if I don't get fed up with people bearding me at parties (as apparently they do to doctors) and telling me their problems. In fact, the question most people ask me at parties is whether I get fed up with people bearding me at parties telling me their problems. And the answer is that they don't. They do ask me questions though, here are some of the favourites:

Surely it's only very stupid people who write in?

I have letters from anyone you can think of. Head teachers and children, health workers and prostitutes, doctors and prisoners, black and white, letters from wealthy people and broke people.

The letters come on paper with embossed addresses, on the backs of envelopes, on office invoice slips or, saddest of all, they come depressed and suicidal on paper that has a cheery Snoopy at the top.

There are crazy letters in green ink from crazy people, there are shaky letters from the elderly and there are dreadful wonky letters in unformed writing from people I

always hope have not put their address at the top.

A lot of us would rather die than put all our private thoughts on paper, and then pop them in the post to a complete stranger. How can people be sure that their letters aren't opened by secretaries who pass them round the office screaming with laughter?

The truth is they can't — and it shows what an extraordinary amount of trust people have in agony aunts that they will write very intimate things to them — things which are often shocking, libellous, not to mention sometimes illegal.

There's a great deal to be said for writing letters. You can write as long as you like, and moan to your heart's content. And of course one of the reasons people write in is because they know they will get a personal reply back, even if their letter doesn't appear on the page.

arrived at the *Sunday Mirror*, where at least half the letters I get are from men.

Their main worries are sex, bereavement, loneliness and divorce. My one-time editor at *Woman*, Jane Reed, always used to say, the men wrote in with only three questions: "How big, how long and how often?" They preceded most of their queries rather sweetly, with the words: "I hope you don't mind me, a mere male, writing, but..." and then went on to ask how big, how long or how often.

I bet you get some pretty filthy stuff, don't you?

Yes, I do, and some pretty sad stuff as well. A large proportion of the letters that come in are about sex but most are surprisingly humdrum. One of the advantages of a problem page as far as sex goes, is that it is far, far easier to write rude than speak rude.

I once attended a Marriage Guidance Council (as it then was) sex workshop (yes, workshop) on a training weekend. A tremendously

upper-class white-haired old marriage guidance lady in sandals led a discussion on sex for a variety of trainees, from church counsellors to personnel officers. "Now, let's be frank and discuss sex!" she boomed. "I'm going to say a word to each of you and you must all describe it in detail."

Luckily I'd already got my glib front up and could talk suavely about "G-spots", "vaginal walls", "lubricating jelly", "prostate glands", not to mention "penile thrusting", with ghastly frankness. They had to shut me up.

But one woman who was called on to describe "testicles" (and give other names for them) was beside herself when she had to reveal to us all that she had never seen her husband's "thing" let alone "things" because they always turned the light out when they made love.

This got rather disapproving looks from the counsellors but I thought, why not? I recently had a letter from someone who complained about his wife being terribly tense and hung-up because she insisted on having the light on all the time when they made love so she could see exactly what he was up to.

My aim is always to make sex seem less rather than more important. I do this because whenever I read a sex-book that is bursting with drawings of couples in extraordinary positions I always feel like a dreadfully dismal Jane.

When I read a book that says that the vast majority of couples favour the missionary position, that a survey shows women (or men) don't rate sex high as an essential in the relationship, then I put the book down feeling like Brigitte Bardot. Compared to these dreary, dull couples I

seem a right little raver.

The problem page does attract its fair share of eccentrics. Quite often I'll get a letter that appears perfectly normal on page one, slightly bizarre on page two, while page three finds the writer dressed up as a waitress with a nappy on. Those who write this kind of letter rarely give their address and I guess they get a big thrill from writing down their fantasies and posting them off to me.

Agony aunts also get letters from people with problems that have got nothing to do with the page. Marje Proops of the *Daily Mirror* has been asked: "We're coming to London next week. Can you suggest a show and a restaurant where we can take my mother?" She was even asked by one woman where she could "get felt in Manchester". Marje replied: "You can get felt anywhere if you put your mind to it."

But she added a PS giving the name of a department store and advising the woman not to walk in saying: "Where can I get felt here?"

What is the point of an agony aunt?

Agony aunts are seen variously as eccentrics, busy-bodies, well-meaning amateurs, experts and, I often suspect, con-artists.

The press have a mixed view of us. Bernard Levin, wrote of Marje Proops: "I cannot see how anybody... can be in any doubt that she does an enormous amount, possibly — of direct, practical good, at any rate — more than any other single individual in the country."

The writer Julie Burchill, however, is not so generous. One of the many gripes she gave vent to in a piece in the *Sunday Times* was that we dispense a "cartload of clucking, smug, chuckling and nudge-nudge advice... There is," she concluded, "just no excuse for them."

"We will always be a joke", Marje Proops once wrote. "But no point in whingeing about it. Who cares, really, as long as our readers continue to take us seriously and we are around when someone writes: 'I'm desperate and I don't know what to do or where to turn. Please, please help me...'"

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991

Extracted from *Problems! Problems! Virginia Ironside to be published tomorrow by Robson Books (£14.95)*

HEATHER KIRBY

'A large proportion of the letters that come in are about sex but most are surprisingly humdrum'

What I want to know is, how many of the letters are hoaxes?

Agony aunts learn to spot hoaxes. A hoax letter is often written in a childish hand and purports to be from a teacher. One letter I got read: "Dear Virginia, I have a problem. I am a gym mistress and a lesbian. I have no friends. I am very lonely because everyone hates me and to make things worse I have smelly armpits."

Smelling more a rat than an armpit, I sent off my standard letter which says: "Dear Reader, Sometimes we have to reassure ourselves that someone has actually sent a letter. Will you please write back to confirm that you indeed did send me a letter that you wished answered?"

Two days later the phone rang and a furious voice boomed: "I have never sent you a letter in my life! It was the gym mistress. It must be one of my pupils. Will you please send it back to me so that I can bring the culprit to justice."

And men, do they ever write to you?

When I was agony aunt at *Woman* magazine I only got a few letters from men. Barely 52 men actually wrote in each year. And if they did, the questions were invariably about sex. But the idea that men don't express their feelings or write in for help was completely disproved when I



Position of trust: people will write things which are often shocking, libellous, not to mention illegal, Virginia Ironside says

AND BRIEFLY

Famous mistakes

WE ALL do it, and so do celebrities. On Saturday, the fashion mistakes of the famous will be sold in aid of the Terence Higgins Trust, the Aids charity, as part of the Fashion Acts initiative. The Edina Ronay suit Julie Walters said she could not ride her bike in, the mauve-grey Jean-Paul Gaultier trouser suit, to which, Kim Wilde confesses, "something must have happened between the shop and when I got home", the emerald green Azzedine Alaïa jacket that Natasha Richardson says was "an impulse buy, but not me", and the mismatched suit bought for a television appearance by Holly Johnson of Frankie Goes To Hollywood, will be among the items on sale for from £10. Admission to the sale, at the Danceworks Studio 5, 16 Balderton Street, London W1, from 10am until 6pm, is a "minimum donation of £1".

Tops for cooks

TOP cooks will demonstrate their favourite recipes at the *BBC Good Food Cooking & Kitchen Show* at the National Exhibition Centre, near Birmingham International Airport and railway station, from November 7-10. John Tovey will flambé venison, Josceline Dimbleby will make puddings and Prue Leith some "easy pleasy" meals, while Raymond Blanc, proprietor of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, will show "how to prepare the finest ingredients and achieve the best results with them". Admission is £6.50 or £5.50 if booked in advance. Telephone 021-780 4133.

Ghoulish fun

HALLOWEEN is spookiest at a (preferably haunted) stately home. Festivities arranged by the National Trust tomorrow include a Haunted House Hunt at Lyme Park, Cheshire, from 6.30 to 8pm (tel: 0663 762 023), one at Florence Court, near Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland (tel: 036-582 249), and at Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, near Lincoln, from 7pm to 9.30pm (tel: 0526 42543).

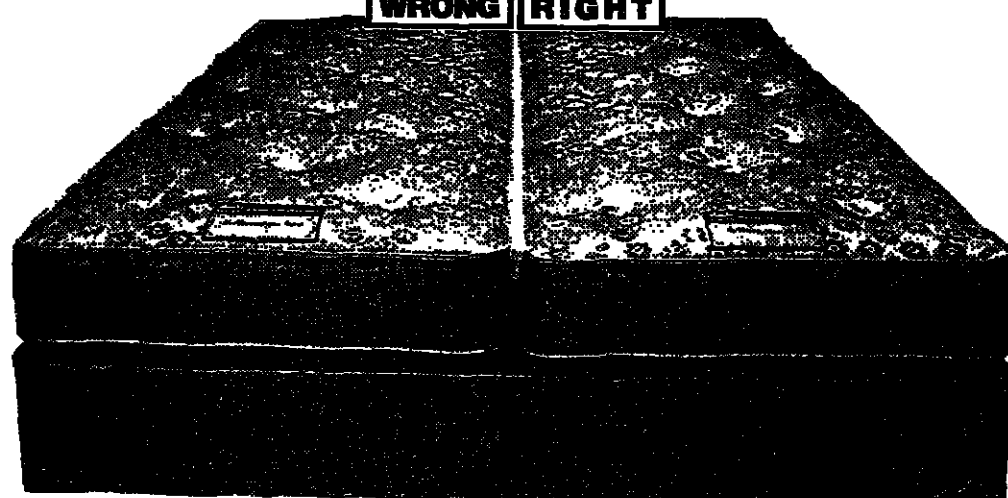
VICTORIA MCKEE

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WHICH QUESTIONS ARE ASKED THE MOST?



Deidre Sanders

DEIDRE SANDERS. *The Sun*: "The bedrock problem is lack of confidence. Not being able to talk to someone you're in love with about how you feel."

"Socially, the problem I have to deal with most often is people always saying 'go on, admit it, you make the letters up. They are not all true.' In reality I am overwhelmed by letters and I couldn't possibly make them up they are so full of bizarre events."

CLAIRE RAYNER. *TV-am*: "The main problem is that people don't listen to each other and don't talk enough. The main problem I have socially is being recognised. Wherever I go people stop me and think I have an answer to their problem. I have given up travelling by Tube, because it is so noisy people felt they could confide in me,



Claire Rayner

and it is amazing how often taxi drivers refuse my money because they have enjoyed a natter about their families."

ANGELA WILLIAMS. *Woman's Own*: "Loneliness is the chief problem. People say: 'I have no one to love me and I never go out.' As soon as people find out what you do, they say 'you make up all the letters don't you?' They are absolutely certain and won't believe you get hundreds of letters a week."

SUE FROST. *Woman*: "How can I get him back? is the question I am most often asked. And socially the thing I am asked most is, what qualifications do you have? As if there were a school that turns out agony aunts ready made with worldly wisdom. Would it were so."

"Certainly, you are aware of a great deal of tragedy out there. And



Angela Williams

there is a certain relentlessness about it, the same problems go on and on. You get the feeling of shoals of woe."

PHILLIP HODSON. *Woman's Own*: "Loneliness is the chief problem. People say: 'I have no one to love me and I never go out.' As soon as people find out what you do, they say 'you make up all the letters don't you?' They are absolutely certain and won't believe you get hundreds of letters a week."

"Socially, my biggest problem is coping with people's high expectations. When they meet you, people seem to think you have x-ray vision and can see into their soul. I have just had lunch with a woman who asked if at the back of my brain I am analysing people's motives all the time."

HEATHER KIRBY

Three writers give sharply differing views on today's talks between sworn enemies

What hope for Middle East peace?

Amos Oz, the Israeli novelist, hails a breakthrough, with the Arabs at last recognising his state's right to exist

Israel is entering today into direct negotiations with all its neighbours and with the Palestinian people. The object of these negotiations is to put an end to seventy years of war between Jews and Arabs and to inaugurate a new age. In due course, the peace talks will lead to regional arrangements and a picture of a shared future: frontiers and security, water and trade, energy and pumps, tourism and cultural ties, and perhaps eventually reconciliation and friendship.

It will be a long process. There will be no outburst of brotherly love: there is too much resentment and suspicion on both sides. The walls are not going to come tumbling down overnight, but we can make a start today. For the world order has changed, and so has the shape of the Middle East. Even here, the time has come not least to stop dying and start living.

The starting positions on the Arab side are very difficult for Israelis, even moderate Israelis like me. The starting positions of Mr Shamir's government are very difficult for Arabs, even moderate Arabs. But we should remember that these are starting positions for negotiations, not for a bloody war.

We should not be alarmed at the distance between the present positions of the two sides. In any case, a nation that has defended itself against the whole Arab world single-handed five times and won has no reason to fear the negotiating table. The thing to do at a negotiating table is not to give way to hysterics or sentimentality, but to negotiate patiently, firmly, cunningly on occasion, magnanimously, but above all with breadth of vision. One should be uncompromising about the essentials, but not dig in one's heels over anything we can do without. The most important thing for Israel is to have the wisdom to distinguish between what is vital and what we can give up in exchange for concessions on the Arab side. The meaning of "negotiation", as its Hebrew name makes clear, is give and take.

Of course when it comes to the crunch, we Israelis will give less than the Arabs want from us, and we shall be given less than we dream of. Neither side can realise all its aspirations and desires, but at least parents on both sides will be able to raise their children instead of burying them. That, in case anyone has forgotten, is what these talks are all about.

How should we start? Perhaps with an initial confidence-building process. Israel might agree to stop settling the occupied territories for the duration of the negotiations, and the Arabs might agree to end the intifada, to renounce terrorism absolutely, and to lift the boycott on Israel at once. America and Europe might undertake to finance the settlement and absorption of a million Jews in Israel and a million Palestinian refugees outside Israel.

This conference and the subsequent negotiations will drag on, with humdrum bargaining over a strip of land here, a well or two there, inspection arrangements for this and guarantees for that. But even during these boring long hours, when the lawyers are poring over the small print, let us never forget that behind the petty details stands a historic victory for Zionism: at long last our enemies are confronting us not with tanks and missiles but with documents and sub-clauses.

The people who for a hundred years have been demanding that we disappear, go away, die, are now asking for compromises and concessions. By doing so they acknowledge publicly and openly that Israel is an established fact. This recognition is not easy for them, and it does not please them. It is not surprising that some of them are arriving in Madrid today reluctantly, sullenly, shamefacedly.

What about the Israelis? Actually we are entitled to come in smiling. Not ecstatically, but with the justified satisfaction of a people who have achieved within a hundred years more than their forebears dreamt of, with the self-confidence of a people who firmly believed — even in times when it was very hard indeed to believe — that the day would come when the whole world, including our enemies, would accept the reality of Israel.

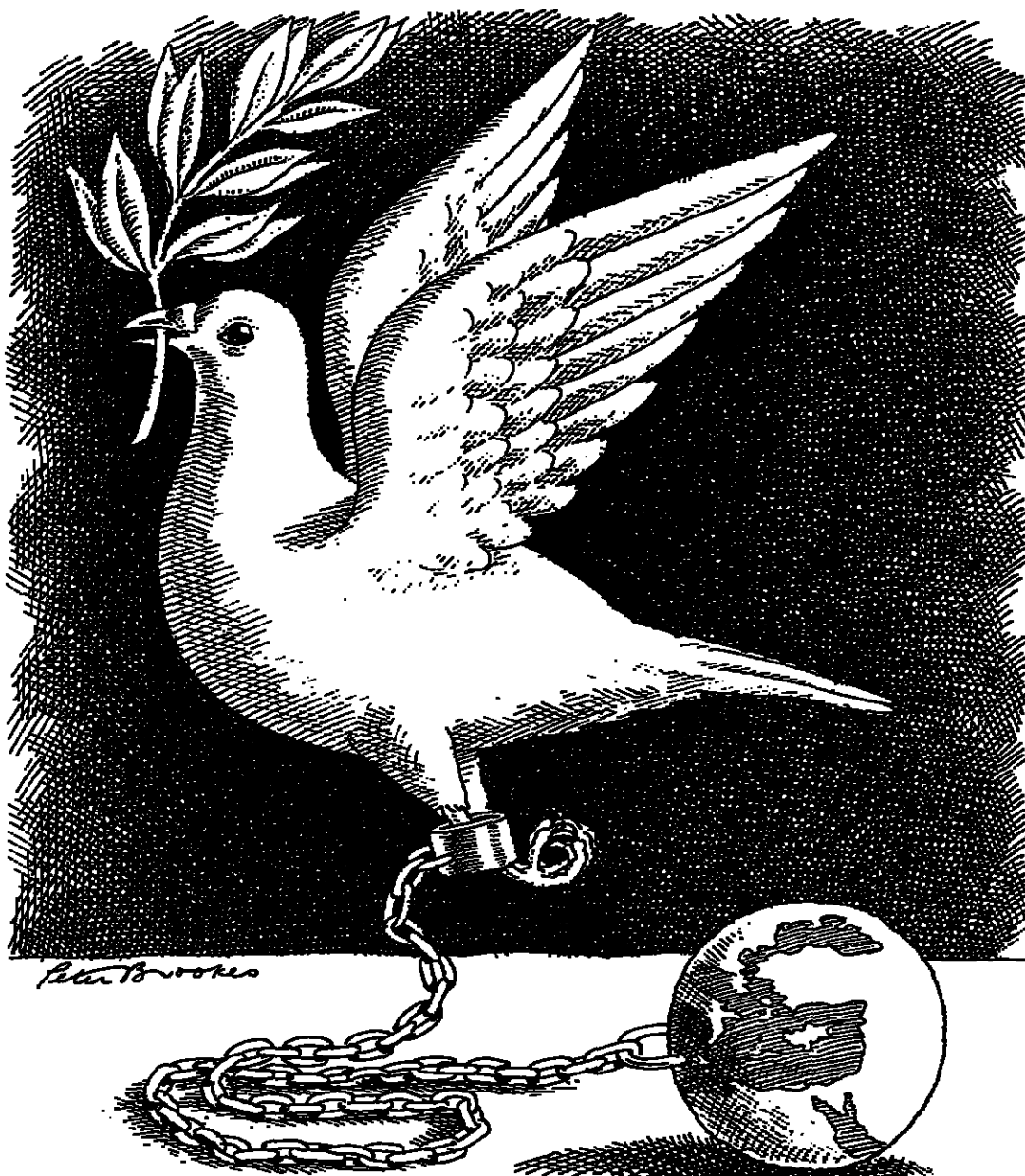
Now that day has come. And from now on, even if there is no honeymoon, there will be a normalisation of the conflict. From this moment on, the question is not, as it was for a hundred years or so, who will disappear and when. The question now is who will get what. Now must begin the complicated effort to settle the dispute over territory, despite the desperate attempts of madmen and fanatics on both sides to change the conflict into a war of religion or an eternal holy struggle.

Today the question of Israel's existence has been struck off the agenda of history, to be replaced by the tricky but resolvable questions of who is to have what, how we are to live side by side, and what this region will be like in the next century.

So the question mark that has been hanging over Israel's existence from its outset has been removed. The Arabs themselves have been compelled to remove it. That is why we are entitled to say today — soberly but without too much gloom — "Praise be to Him who has allowed us to live to see this day."

The author's collection of essays *The Slopes of Lebanon* is published by Vintage at £5.99.

© Amos Oz.



A land soaked in blood

Richard Owen traces the conflict back to the Old Testament

The brutality, passion and thirst for vengeance of the modern Middle East might spring from the pages of the Old Testament. The attack on a West Bank settlers' bus on the eve of the Madrid talks was a crude attempt to upset the peace process just as the participants are inching towards the T-shaped conference table. But the symbolism of the attack reaches deep into the blood-soaked soil of the Holy Land.

Shiloh, where the attack took place, is a re-creation by zealous Jews of the biblical city, which long ago crumbled into the rocky hills of what used to be Palestine. A few miles away from the neat suburban Jewish settlement is Nabulus, a teeming Arab city which is the heart of militant Palestinian nationalism, but which the Israelis refer to as biblical Shechem.

Since they have to start somewhere, all peace plans assume Israel's right to security within its 1948-67 borders — "Israel proper". The southern flank of this area is secure. In the north, the argument runs, it should be possible to reach an accommodation with Damascus over the Golan Heights, which Israel took in 1967. For all its militancy, Syria wants to regain lost land, as a matter of Arab pride. Israel wants to ensure that Syria can no longer

shell Jewish settlements below the Heights, as it did before 1967. Similarly, in southern Lebanon, Israel wants to be sure that extremist Palestinians or Muslim fanatics who still oppose the existence of Israel cannot cross the Israeli border to kill Jews.

A case can also be made for a settlement in Gaza, which is of little strategic value to Israel, and is almost impossible to rule. But the West Bank of the Jordan is another matter. To Israeli zealots, the West Bank is Judea and Samaria, part of the biblical heritage of the Jews. The settlements that have sprung up all over the West Bank, and along the 1967 "green line", have a security purpose. Israel, the argument runs, needs a buffer against another Arab assault. But the armed Jewish settlers in Hebron, an hour's drive south of Jerusalem, have no doubt they are also there to re-establish a claim stretching back to the patriarch Abraham.

Forget the modern housing of today's Hebron: what is at stake is the Cave of Machpelah, the great mausoleum which tradition says Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23, 7). Hebron (el Khalil in Arabic) is holy to Muslims too. The very soil is bound up both with the Bible and with the Koran.

Yitzhak Shamir has a vision of Israel stretching from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. He sees this as an ideal, but many in Likud see it in more practical terms. On the Palestinian side, this vision is matched by the zealots of Hamas, the fundamentalist Muslims who want the same land. Some PLO members too will never rest content with a Palestine that consists only of the West Bank and Gaza, but want the whole of the old Palestine, including Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem.

Control of Jerusalem is so explosive an issue that it is not even on the Madrid agenda. The city is "the eternal Jewish capital", home of King David, site of the Jewish temple destroyed in Roman times; it is also the Muslim "al Quds", the holy place, associated with Muhammad; it is the heartbeats of Christianity.

The anti-riot tear gas that regularly chokes the ancient alleys of the Old City of Jerusalem is the symbol of the clashes such passions engender. But the passions of Jerusalem also run high in the disputed places of the West Bank, where every stone, every well, every olive and fig tree, speaks to the soul of Arab and Jew alike.

Map, page 11

Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that the Palestinians will still be the losers whatever deal is struck in Madrid

The composition of the Madrid conference represents, in appearance at least, a remarkable recovery for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, after the general discredit it earned by supporting Iraq during the Gulf war. The Bush administration clearly still regards the involvement of the PLO as essential to the hopes (whatever exactly these may be) for peace.

Heavy pressure must have been applied behind the scenes to induce Mr Shamir's government to sit down in Madrid with a group of Palestinians who are clearly PLO proxies. Having repeatedly vowed never to talk to the PLO, Mr Shamir will now be talking to the PLO's nominees. It is a distinction without a difference.

Israel has clearly given some ground, but it is not anxious to advertise the fact. Mr Shamir's team is composed of his close personal associates. Israel's foreign office is represented by the deputy foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, an extremely able negotiator who served Israel well in a difficult role as permanent representative at the United Nations. He is sufficient of a "hard liner" to have Mr Shamir's confidence, in a way his superior, David Levy, has not.

Overall, the message to the Americans appears to be that Israel has made a big concession by agreeing to meet a group of Palestinians approved by the PLO. A rush of further concessions can hardly be expected. Nor, I think, are they expected.

If Israel has made a concession by agreeing to meet pro-PLO Palestinians, then the PLO and its proxies have made an even bigger concession by accepting the conference invitation. That invitation specifies that the separate negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will begin with "talks on interim self-government arrangements" for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. With the exception of the single word "interim", that is an Israeli formula and one already rejected by the Palestinians. Their acceptance of an invitation which includes this formula is a measure of how anxious they are to come in from the cold after their damaging Iraqi adventure.

To persuade the government of Israel and the PLO to sit down together, as they will effectively be doing in Madrid, is a significant victory for American diplomacy, and a sign of the American hegemony in the region after Operation Desert Storm. But even hegemony does not confer omnipotence, and nothing less than that could bring agreement between Israelis and Palestinians over the yielding of territory in return for peace.

Optimists cite some signals to the contrary. A recent poll in Israel showed 69 per cent of Israelis favouring "territory for peace". But when Israelis talk of giving up some territory, they mean, perhaps, Gaza. To Palestinians, the formula means, at the very least, the handing back of all the territory accepted in 1967 (including east Jerusalem), and the uprooting of all Jewish settlements

in the occupied territories. No Israeli government could agree to that and survive.

And if, per impossible, some future Israeli government were to agree to some such thing, it would still not win peace in return. This became apparent last week after some Palestinians accepted the invitations to Madrid. For those who have accepted have received death threats — from the two "rejectionist" fronts which are at odds with the PLO, and from Islamic fundamentalists such as Islamic Holy War, which is now gaining in strength in the territories at the PLO's expense. There were also symptoms of extreme unease inside the PLO. Only last week the combat headquarters in Sidon of Mr Arafat's Fatah organisation was seized, according to news reports, by "about 300 PLO guerrillas" who objected to Mr Arafat's agreement to the Madrid conference. The guerrillas also took over Ain Hilwe, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. The insurrection was led by an officer, Major Munir Makkad, who is commander of Fatah's own security apparatus in Lebanon, known as Force 17.

These violent reactions have been precipitated by nothing more than the acceptance of an invitation to sit down and talk to Israel. What would Palestinians face who concluded a compromise and peace with Israel?

Many Israelis have long feared that if Israel concludes an agreement conceding territory in return for peace, the very territories conceded will be used as bases for attacks on them. Radical Palestinian responses to the Madrid peace conference tended to confirm those fears.

Agreement between Israelis and Palestinians appears so remote a prospect that one might wonder why the Americans took so much trouble to bring these reluctant interlocutors together. I suspect that, as so often before, the Palestinians are pawns in a game in which they will again be sacrificed. The real American aim, unlike the ostensible one, is an attainable one: peace between Israel and Syria, strengthening and extending Pax Americana in the region. This cannot be achieved unless Mr Shamir is prepared to hand back the Golan Heights to Damascus, which he is extremely reluctant to do. But pressure over "Judea and Samaria", which Mr Shamir cannot concede, may induce him to make the Golan concession which is at least possible, however unpleasant.

There is a precedent: Camp David in 1978. Then Jimmy Carter set the seal on a separate peace between Israel and Egypt. The tacit abandonment of the Palestinians, by both Egypt and America, in concluding that separate peace, was camouflaged at Camp David by the inclusion of a substantively meaningless document on Palestine called "Framework for Peace". No doubt a similar fig-leaf can be found for the separate peace between Syria and Egypt which the American Secretary of State James Baker hopes to conclude before 1996.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

You would think that after 30 years of doing something, day in, day out, everything that was ever going to surprise you about the doing of it would already have occurred. There would be no more occupational shocks. Fresh would have long ago raised its last goosebump. Aback was somewhere you would never again be taken.

Last Saturday, I received a letter from a reader. I am delighted to report that I get a fair few such, for it is one of the major perks of this lonely trade that soliloquy will often generate colloquy — you sit in your hack's hole in the eaves, spasmodically tapping your keyboard but never knowing whether anyone is paying any attention, until, from time to time, these sequestered tappings evoke a response: the tapper taps back, much in the manner of the solitarily confined banging Morse teletypes on the slammer's pipes to cheat their isolation of its prey.

Sometimes they write to concur, sometimes to berate, sometimes to pass on an anecdote or graffiti or handy household hint, sometimes, even, to share a memory of Crickwood, but whatever they offer, they are invariably welcome. All the more so when, like Saturday's, they come from left field: my correspondent wanted me to christen his cat.

I was touched, and, yes, flattered, for the naming of a pet is an intimate business, and it bespoke great trust in whatever

peculiar powers he thought I possessed that this bloke was prepared to invite a complete stranger to saddle his moggy with its life's label. Nor this alone, for in order to give me something to work on, he furnished a number of personal details which under normal circumstances would have got no further than his doctor's walls. He also sent photographs of the new cat, the house it walks about in, and both the family and the dog with which it will henceforth share its life. For he is, patently, as wise as he is meticulous: he knows that a cat's name has to fit more than the cat. It is no good calling a cat Bourne if the dog is called Hollingsworth (unless, of course, your furniture looks as though it belongs to the sort of people who do things like that), nor should it be christened Spot if one of the children has acne.

All this I thus took very seriously: indeed, during that afternoon's England-Scotland match I could think of little else, to the point where I actually missed Rob Andrew's drop-goal by having run upstairs to the attic shelves to try to find out whether old U Tin Bum was still alive, because the kitten was a Burmese, and it had suddenly struck me that the great poet's was as terrific a name as you could shake a joss-stick at, provided it had come back on the market; and by the time I got downstairs again, everybody was swapping shirts.

Nor were my weekend delib-

erations all main text: there was a lot of activity going on in the margins. For example, might naming a cat mean getting lumbered with other godfatherly responsibilities? Would I have to supervise its moral welfare, take it to the Ritz every birthday for a slap-up fish-head tea, slip it a postal-order now and again? More selfishly, could this be the start of something big, was there a bob or two to be made out of nomenclature, should I open a place called *Just Names* in some chic Belgravian backwater, to which the well-heeled fraught would flock to get their onomastic headaches eased?

It was as I was idly, that night, turning such suppositions over that the aforementioned thing struck me which had never struck before. It began innocently enough with my wondering whether my nice catman might actually have been a bit dotty, for, face it, a million readers cannot be exempt from abnormality. And then it was that the neck-hairs sprang, for it came to me that, statistically, some of you must be very weird indeed. There will be those reading these very lines who have plumed depus of depravity which the imagination cannot even begin to frame. I tap out stuff for ghouls and murderers. I commune with the deranged and the damned. I tell them jokes. We share lives.

It makes you think. Last weekend, the rest of you had an extra hour's kip. All I had was an extra hour's bed.

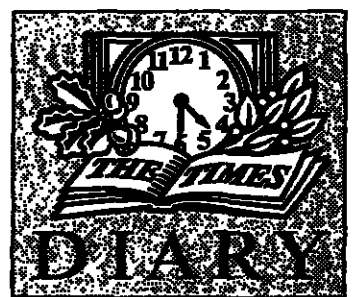
Popeless case?

THE POPE is upset. While even the EC has a seat at the table in Madrid to debate peace in the Middle East, the Holy See, which has long been pursuing its own peace initiatives in the region, has not been invited.

The omission seems odd. Only last week Pope John-Paul commissioned a "high-ranking prelate" to liaise between Western and Middle Eastern interests, in preparation for the conference. The Vatican declines to name the prelate, but says he is a diplomat who has been serving as a counsellor in a nunciature. The Pope's unofficial foreign minister, the Secretary for Relations with the States, Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, had been privately preparing for Vatican involvement with a visit to the Middle East. Cardinal Echeagaray, the president of the pontifical justice and peace commission, is also known to have been keen to see the Vatican represented at the conference.

The Americans, it is said, were not keen to have the church present, because of the Vatican's less than supportive attitude during the Gulf war. The Russians also felt the Pope did not have a significant role to play in the peace process.

After all the church's efforts in the Middle East, the snub is keenly felt, although the Vatican remains sanguine. Like a party-goer not invited to the season's grandest ball, the director of the Holy See's press office, Dr Navarro-Valls, says the Pope did not want to go anyway. "The Holy See did not ask to participate." It did, however, expect to be asked. Instead, says Navarro-Valls, "the Holy See will express, as it has done up to the present, its concern for the



problem and will make known its expectations through the media and those channels it will consider opportune."

Not all of Europe is yet ready for the free movement of goods across frontiers and borders. The Greek army has just ordered thousands of new tyres for its vehicles. Unfortunately Pirelli, which has the contract, recently closed its factory in Patras, following a labour dispute. The Greek military were not amused when it took delivery of hundreds of tons of rubber, all stamped with the words: "Made in Turkey". The entire consignment has been sent back.

Exhibiting tolerance

WHAT are some of Britain's most famous contemporary artists doing on a City street corner with their easels, sketching the Mappin & Webb building? One might think there were more interesting city-scapes, but John Ward, Anthony Eyton and others are painting with a purpose: recording the eight listed buildings which will be demolished as part of Lord Palumbo's Mansion House scheme. The paintings will be exhibited at a show entitled "The Heart of the City" in early December at the Mall Galleries, to raise money for the conservation body SAVE Britain's Heritage, which fought

but failed to stop the development and now faces hefty legal costs.

"The artists have spotted all sorts of details on the buildings which they hadn't noticed before," says Marianne Watson-Smyth of SAVE. But the organisation clearly has no hard feelings. Palumbo is top of the invitation list to the opening.

Life in the fast lane

UNLIKELY as it may sound, the M25 has a fan club which expects to recruit thousands of new members as a result of the opening today of the new bridge at Dartford.

A group of businessmen and hoteliers is hard at work trying to convince us that the M25 presents exciting business opportunities. Peter Rand of the M25 Meetings Group has already taken clients to view the bridge. "We took 100 clients from major companies onto

As others see us

IMAGE-MAKERS are concerned about their own image. Selling sand to the Sahara or beachwear at the north pole — nothing is beyond the wit of the public relations industry. Yet the PR men feel they have done less than a good job in selling themselves. PR, they fear, has become almost a derogatory term, synonymous with manipulation and even deceit.

So the search is on for a new, more marketable name to market the marketing men. The trade press has recently been full of suggestions. One receiving considerable support is "prop", short for "PR operative", but also cleverly implying the supposedly vital supporting role. Another suggestion, from Chris Twigger of Shaw & Underwood, is an acronym of "Person Responsible for Issuing Communications".

Is Gerald Ratner about to set a legal precedent by suing over the use of his own words? According to a memo from the BBC legal department, the purveyor of trinkets to the masses "now has a firm of city lawyers acting for him, complaining about continuing references to his goods... as 'crap'". Several newspapers have already been caught out. But wasn't it Ratner himself who came up with the description? Indeed, but he did not mean that everything he sold was "total crap" — only a sherry decanter set with six glasses on a silver-plated silver tray.



the bridge last week. We took a coach to the middle of the bridge, generally nosed around and enjoyed the spectacular views." Other schemes to promote the motorway include the M25 Business Inspiration Awards, for the best business ideas dreamt up



NO FUDGE ON EMU

A British signature on the EC treaty on economic and monetary union this December is no foregone conclusion. To be sure, the text of the Dutch presidency's latest draft, with its multi-speed approach to Emu, is a tribute to John Major's tactical flexibility and strategic steadiness over the past year. But the announcement from No 10 yesterday that Britain will not sign an accompanying, non-binding, declaration of support for Emu is merely a sideshow. The treaty is what matters.

A year ago Britain was told that if it did not sign this treaty, the other 11 would go ahead and leave it isolated. Since then Mr Major has resisted offers to leave Britain free to decide when it would sign up for monetary union, provided it agreed that a single currency and a European Central Bank was its ultimate goal. By holding out, Mr Major has achieved his two main objectives. He has prevented Britain from being frozen out of the arguments during the "transitional" phase of preparation for Emu, while at the same time keeping Britain's options genuinely open.

The case for remaining part of the increasingly tense discussion on Emu is that Britain will be affected by Emu even if it remains outside. Britain therefore has an unquestionable interest in seeing that Emu takes place on the basis of low inflation and sound public finance. Britain has an equally keen interest in containing the demands of the weaker EC economies for large financial transfers to enable them to meet the rules governing membership. The draft treaty lays down strict criteria on inflation, interest and exchange rates, budgetary deficits and the level of public debt. Spain is already demanding that the "right" to aid to meet these requirements be built into the treaty. Hence German doubts about Emu, and hence the need to ensure that Britain is not billed for helping other countries to achieve an objective it does not share. This is Britain's continuing interest in the debate.

Under the current draft, Britain would sign up to Stage 2 of Emu, the period beginning in 1994 during which EC governments prepare for Emu, but be free not to go forward to Stage 3, full monetary union with a single currency and central bank. The advance achieved by Britain has been to cut

out complicated transitional obligations under Stage 2 which would have left the government in control of little more than fiscal policy and public spending.

Article 109G of the new draft removes most of these problems. It states that no government can be compelled by the Council of Ministers to proceed to Stage 3 of Emu. Any country whose parliament "does not feel able to approve of the irrevocable fixing of its currency" would be granted exemption from full Emu. Exemption would even free Britain from a series of obligations during Stage 2. There will still be moral suasion to meet Emu targets in monetary and fiscal policies during this "transitional" phase, but sanctions against non-compliers begin only in Stage 3 and apply only to Emu countries. Britain could remain outside all this.

Having won so much, the Dutch presidency argues, Britain should surely not be so churlish as to refuse to put its signature to a harmless (because non-binding) 11-line declaration to be appended to the treaty. Yet what is the point of this declaration? It negates all the above and calls for a "swift transition" to Emu by "all member states", and expresses "their strongest intention" to participate in Stage 3 "without exemption".

Britain's co-operation has been sought by the Dutch and others on the ground that Germany, not Britain, is the declaration's target. A statement of good will signed by all would be some insurance against backsliding by Helmut Kohl, for whom (and for whose countrymen) Emu is increasingly seen as a price Germany would reluctantly pay for a genuine United States of Europe. The greater the likelihood of a treaty on political union falling well short of German ambitions, the more valuable this declaration on economic union is to the Dutch presidency, and to the French.

As the Maastricht deadline nears, the whole European union process is naturally becoming ever more complicated. Mr Major is right to refuse this latest diplomatic fudge. To sign the declaration would not only be cynical, since he has consistently rejected a single currency and central bank. It would crack the Tory party wide open. Mr Major has balanced the odds nicely in the Emu negotiations so far. He must stick to his last.

CREATIVE CONFIDENCE

Swallows enough have been spotted amid the economic indicators since mid-summer, but until now the blue skies of recovery have stubbornly failed to follow. Does yesterday's survey from the CBI finally herald the sunshine? Its professed rise in business optimism is the most positive for 17 years. In July pessimists outnumbered optimists by 26 percentage points. Now the optimists have it, by a majority of 2 percentage points. The relief within the Treasury is palpable.

The government's public response was carefully modulated. Norman Lamont said that the economy was coming out of recession. He has yet to respond to the urgings of his neighbour in Downing Street to proclaim recovery under way. There he is certainly right. Of the firms responding to the CBI, 69 per cent report that they are operating below capacity and 89 per cent that orders, not shortages of people or machines, are holding back output.

Sceptics might go further and question the validity of the plethora of confidence surveys on which ministers are now placing so much reliance. No credence would be given to a weather forecaster who based his predictions on a survey of what people thought the weather would be like. Similarly, it is argued, no confidence should be placed in confidence indicators. What industry thinks will happen to the economy has little to do with what will happen to the economy.

That said, the CBI survey has a record of success in predicting turning points in the economic cycle. It predicted the sharp recovery of 1975. It pointed strongly to a turn for the better in 1981 at a time when 365 economists had just given their now infamous warning of endless gloom in prospect. The CBI was proved right and the

massed ranks of Keynesian conventional wisdom wrong. As a result of that experience, confidence indicators have proliferated. The findings of all established surveys are now consistent with the CBI's.

The analogy with weather forecasting does not hold up. Industrialists are not passive victims of economic circumstances, in the way that people are victims of bad weather. They help to create them. Recovery depends on the animal spirits of entrepreneurs, which inform their decisions on output, investment, employment and so on. Once they start to lift, the economy will lift with them. Moreover, the recovery of confidence this time is not mere whim. It is underpinned by developments in the real economy. Interest rates are 4 per cent lower than a year ago. Consumer confidence is rising slowly. Pay is rising faster than prices, gradually adding to purchasing power. The financial position of the company sector is improving.

The signs do not yet suggest a boom in prospect. Growth next year will at best recoup this year's negative growth. It remains true that the government kept interest rates too high for too long and unnecessarily delayed recovery. But taken with the confidence indicators, these current indicators make it unlikely that the recession will continue.

Chancellors used to moan that they were in the position of a driver forced to steer by what he saw in the mirror. Only statistics of what had happened were available, and they frequently misled. Thanks to confidence indicators, that is no longer true. When Mr Lamont delivers his Mansion House speech tomorrow, he will have something better than a long-term weather forecast to go on.

MUSIC OF THE MOTORWAY

Trans-European highways were conceived by the Romans, who built and maintained some 50,000 miles of road for several centuries. Soviet domination of Eastern Europe bequeathed a legacy of potholes. Commerce not warfare is now the driving force behind continental road-building. Two trans-European motorways are planned, east-west and north-south, linking the former communist states and the heartlands of capitalism. What will be their impact on the lives of ordinary Europeans?

The north-south network, first mooted 20 years ago, will stretch from the Baltic coast of Poland through Prague, Vienna and Budapest, with branches to Italy and the Balkans, ending in Turkey. Of the eventual 10,000km some 2,000km have been built since 1977; another 4,000km are in progress. Its future depends on the hexagonal group, the "antechamber" of the European Community" set up by Italy to give Eastern Europe another focus besides Germany. Since it was launched last year one member of the hexagon, Yugoslavia, has fallen apart. Lack of funds hinders progress everywhere. Hungary is paying for its motorways with tolls; others may follow.

The east-west motorway will connect Berlin with Moscow, new Germany and new Russia, taking in Poland and the republic of Belorussia en route. This highway is intended to grease the German-Russian economic axis, already overloading the decrepit road from Warsaw to Poznan.

These vast routes will alter not only the economies but also the cultures of the countries through which they pass. They would be a powerful force for standardisation. A standard currency, probably the Deutschmark, might be needed to pay for tolls and petrol. Restaurants and hotels along the route would conform to common expectations, with a few big firms controlling most franchises. Driving rules would have to be agreed. Only etiquette, a far more constant expression of nationhood than food or clothes, would resist standardisation.

Those who have not driven in Eastern Europe cannot imagine what these new highways will mean to the lorry-driver, the business traveller and the tourist. To be able to drive at more than an average of 30mph would be a second liberation.

But for how long? Along with the trans-European highway will sooner or later come the trans-European traffic jam. A taste of this may persuade a few thoughtful people to eschew Tarmac and return to Europe's natural highways, more ancient even than those of the Romans. The Danube and its tributaries link the capitals of central Europe better than any motorway. No motorway has yet inspired music, as the Rhine and the Vitava did Schumann and Smetana. As the trans-European in transit pauses for refreshment at a Little Chef somewhere on the Moscow road, what will be the theme of the piped music he hears as he eats his caviar-burger? The Volga boatman's song?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Decision on individual's 'right to die' Finding the right voice for London

From the Chairman of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, There is simply no evidence to support the statement by Dame Cicely Saunders (letter, October 19) that "a 'legalised right to die'... can lead to a presumed duty to die". Nor is there evidence for the difficulty which Dame Cicely sees in granting that right without undermining the claims to care of the many.

Acknowledging the wish of people to control their lives does not make us less considerate of the needs of others. Dame Cicely would not care less for her patients if the law were changed. In any event the bill which this society has prepared has provisions to introduce safeguards, as far as it is practicable to do so, against improper pressure being applied.

Similarly, Mr Colin Harte produces a fine non-sequitur (letter, October 19) by saying that "The proposed legislation, far from acknowledging a right to die... reveals a prejudice that vulnerable people... do not deserve the same respect, dignity and proper medical care as other people".

It is extraordinarily difficult for opponents of voluntary euthanasia to see that their opponents do not wish to take anything from anyone, either openly or covertly, certainly not the skilled and loving care which the sick receive in hospices and elsewhere. We wish only to have the right to decide that we do not choose to avail ourselves of it if we believe that the short extra time that would be gained does not justify the indignity (not merely the pain) of incurable illness.

This society would strongly support the proposal in your leading article today for a committee of enquiry into euthanasia: thorough and open discussion of the issue is long overdue. Headed by someone of appropriate stature, such a commission could take the debate onto a plane where the intricate questions inherent in the subject are sufficiently clarified for the making of informed decisions.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HURWITT, Chairman,
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society - Exit,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8,
October 28.

From Mr Luke Gormally
Sir, Your second leader today confuses what is at issue in the debate over legalising voluntary euthanasia by speaking of a "decision to die" and a "right to live or die". What is at issue is legalisation of decisions by patients to have doctors kill them, and legalisation, therefore, of the "justification" doctors will have for killing patients.

What is the relevant justification for killing that we are invited to accept? It cannot be simply that the patient has asked to be killed, nor that the patient takes a dim view of his or her existence. Doctors of all persuasions would set aside such requests if they believed the patient had continuing prospects of a worthwhile life. It is only if the doctor judges that the patient no longer has a worthwhile life that he

will think himself justified in killing the patient.

So the main burden of justifying euthanasia killing has to be borne not so much by the fact of a patient's request, but by the responsible doctor's judgment that the patient's life is no longer worthwhile. The logic of such a position is that where choice cannot be exercised there can be no objection in principle to killing incompetent patients whose lives are judged "worthless" or "pointless".

It is a fundamental assumption of our system of criminal justice that every human being possesses worth and basic rights simply in virtue of being human. No human being is to be killed intentionally on the ground that he or she lacks a worthwhile life.

To discriminate between human beings in terms of "quality of life" is to abandon a coherent conception of justice. All this ought to be recognisable by anyone with an understanding of the foundations of justice in our society, whether or not they think those foundations have a warrant in religious belief.

In any case, it is unworthy of you to seek to portray absolutist opposition to euthanasia as a peculiarity of Catholics. That is a propagandist device. Opposition to voluntary euthanasia is a tenet common to Orthodox Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The logic of accommodating "voluntary euthanasia" is now clear from the data provided by the government committee of enquiry (the Remmelink report) in The Netherlands. Of 49,000 deaths directly induced by clinical management in 1990, 19,575 (40 per cent) were euthanasia deaths; of these, 13,816 were cases of non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia. We have no need of a government committee of enquiry of our own.

Yours sincerely,
LUKE GORMALLY (Director),
The Linacre Centre,
60 Grove End Road, NW8,
October 28.

From Mr Rupert Ridge
Sir, Dr Stephen Henderson Smith's letter (October 21) is chilling, not so much because of the conclusion he reaches about learning to die "at the right time" but because of the thinking behind it that he expresses. If we have "absorbed... abortion" and need to move on in the field of timely death might the time arise also to "absorb", for example, the killing of babies after birth if we then found some reason? Would it be a welcome sign that "attitudes to life have changed radically" if we recognised that other, older, people may not be qualified to decide "the right time" for themselves and that others may be better qualified to decide for them?

The chipping away at the sanctity of life is frightening, immoral and dangerous. Attitudes to life "have not improved if Dr Smith's letter remains unchallenged."

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT RIDGE,
Brookley Elm House, Brookley,
Blackwell, Bristol, Avon,
October 21.

BA and Stansted

From the Director of Public Affairs, British Airways

Sir, British Airways has no intention of moving its main UK operating base from Heathrow to Stansted, or anywhere else, contrary to your report (October 29).

We have made it clear to government, Parliament and press that the future of British civil aviation will be best served by concentrating infrastructure development in the South-East at Heathrow. This includes the construction of a fifth terminal in which all British Airways operations can be consolidated instead of being spread across two separate terminals, as they are at present. We remain the only major airline which does not have its own single-terminal facility at its main home base.

It also includes the urgent construction of a rapid-transit rail link between Heathrow and the city centre. We believe further that the additional runway for London and the South-East, currently being considered by the Department of Transport, should be sited at Heathrow.

Heathrow's position as the preferred London airport for passengers

and airlines alike, and its place as the world's pre-eminent international gateway, did not come about by accident. London has won its position at the top of world air transport through initiative and investment over many years. The benefits to the UK's international trade and the domestic economy are self-evident.

To throw this situation away by privatisation over urgently-needed development and expansion would be a matter of the utmost regret to us; but an occasion for rejoicing among those continental European cities who are actively planning to usurp our position.

Our philosophy is based on the tried and trusted principle of building on existing strengths as the only logical way forward.

Your report seems to follow the hypothesis that should developments such as Terminal 5 and the rail-air link be further delayed or dismissed, British Airways would move elsewhere. We do not contemplate such a course of action.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURNSIDE,
Director of Public Affairs,
British Airways,
Heathrow Airport (London),
Hounslow, Middlesex,
October 29.

Army releases

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, The issue of civilian employment for ex-service personnel raised by Mr Andrew Freemantle (letter, October 25) deserves more attention by management in industry, commerce and the public services.

There is little doubt that prejudice against ex-service applicants for jobs exists in all these sectors (although there are honourable exceptions). The stereotypes of Colonel Blimp or the wooden-headed sergeant-major (who no doubt once existed but can rarely be found today) still persist in the minds of some employers.

As an economist who has maintained close links over several decades with both the private and public sectors, I have come across these attitudes so frequently that, in references I write for ex-students who have served for a spell in the armed services, I have to stress the achievements and advantages of modern service life and try to dispel the false conceptions and prejudices. Modern service personnel receive training in management skills and,

no less important, in efficiency and loyalty in their appointed tasks. My impression is that management training is provided not only for officers but down to much lower ranks than in many other countries. This was demonstrated in the Gulf war, where one was struck by the calm, assured, and impressive manner in which young people of all ranks expressed themselves in television coverage.

Before the Gulf war fades from our memories we should remind ourselves of these facts, and bear in mind the aptitudes and energies that ex-service applicants can bring to civilian employment.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Grafton Street, Edinburgh 9.

From the Adjutant General
Sir, Andrew Freemantle implies that our policy on releasing officers and soldiers from the army is designed solely to the advantage of the army and at the expense of the individual seeking re-employment. He should rest assured that, as the army goes through the present difficult process

of reduction, the interests of the individual will be given prime consideration and often an overriding priority.

Naturally, we have to ensure that the army continues to be efficiently manned to perform its tasks but overall the army's approach to the release of individual officers and soldiers will be as flexible as possible. Inevitably there is a timetable for redundancies which limits the flexibility which can be shown to those receiving the redundancy terms. There is no such timetable for the majority who will leave in the normal course of their terms of service without these considerable benefits. Whether or not they receive redundancy payments the procedures will be used intelligently to place individuals in the best possible situation vis-a-vis civilian employment.

Yours etc.,
DAVID RAMSBOTHAM,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, SW1.

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eatham (Conservative)

Sir, Damian Green echoes my belief that the need is for an authoritative forum for London, not an authority or extra administration.

Members of Parliament do have links with every part of London, with each issue and with the problems and opportunities for the capital. The gains will come where there is agreement across parties and across borough boundaries.

The first step should be the re-unification of the boroughs in one association. Labour can help by scrapping the ALA (Association of London Authorities).

Intelligence museum

From Mr John Moe

Sir, Mr Nigel West, who suggests the establishment of a museum dealing with intelligence and special operations during the second world war ("Britain's secret history", October 12), may like to know that in August 1970 our present king, then Crown Prince Harald, opened Norway's Resistance Museum, housed in Akershus Castle, Oslo.

In its archives this museum has copies of about half the 10,000 or so messages radioed by Norwegian resistance operators from Norwegian soil. Among them is the one received and deciphered in the UK, reporting the sinking of the Tirpitz,

before the attacking aircraft and brave crew had returned to their base.

These messages are available here in English translation and may well be of interest to the proposed new museum in the UK.

My interest is inspired by my own engagement as double agent Mutt of the Mutt and Jeff team that operated from London and Aberdeen between 1941 and 1944, feeding the German Abwehr with deception messages regarding Allied troop movements.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MOE,
Mikkels Reys vei 65,
N 0688 Oslo, Norway,
October 24.

From Mr Peter Jackson
Sir, The decision by the Police Dependents' Trust to refuse money from Libya (report, October 19) is no doubt well meant, but mistaken. Of course, no amount of money can compensate for the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher or the harm caused by support of the IRA, but it should nevertheless be accepted as a gesture and a first step towards acknowledgement that Libya's actions were wrong.

One of the most difficult things for anyone to say is "sorry", particularly when entrenched stands have been taken over time. Which is why so often we, and even more so other cultures where customs and practice differ, resort to codes when talking that embarrassing first step towards admission of guilt.

Emotional talk of "blood money" is unhelpful. There is no evidence that Colonel Gaddafi has demanded or expects anything in return; the money should be accepted for what it clearly is, a first step towards a dialogue which may be more fruitful not only for UK-Libyan relations but also with regard to the world need for a settlement of Middle East conflicts.

It was right for Britain to take a moral stand over, for example, the Falklands or Kuwait; but positive, forward-looking use of diplomacy might have avoided both.

There is a time for taking moral stances and a time for statesmanship and building bridges. I hope the Police Dependents' Trust will think again and the government take a lead by responding in a mature manner to Libyan overtures.

Yours faithfully,
PETER JACKSON,
24a Western Avenue,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

Waiting for a heart

From Dr Margaret Y. A. Oliver

Sir, Years ago my son John, aged 25, died in a road accident in Cambridge and was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. We were not asked to donate organs and did not think of it until next day, when we were told it was too late. Now I still deeply regret this waste of his fine, healthy body.

He carried a donor card. Perhaps, if these were displayed in cars beside the licence disc, Mrs Tansy's grandson (letter, October 24) might live.

Yours truly,
MARGARET Y. A. OLIVER,
East Morningside House,
Edinburgh 8.

Family reunion

From Mrs Florence Somerville

Sir, I was intrigued to see that you used as an illustration to "No treasures in an empty box" (October 19) a long-forgotten photograph of myself, family and friends gathered round the television in 1954. We were watching one of the first party political broadcasts on our newly-acquired set.

You may be interested to know that the schoolboy on the right of the picture is my son, now director of the Reuter Foundation.

Yours sincerely,
F. SOMERVILLE,
15 Dryden Road,
Bush Hill Park,
Enfield, Middlesex.

Cheque from Libya

From Mr Peter Jackson

Sir, The decision by the Police Dependents' Trust to refuse money from Libya (report, October 19) is no doubt well meant, but mistaken. Of course, no amount of money can compensate for the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher or the harm caused by support of the IRA, but it should nevertheless be accepted as a gesture and a first step towards acknowledgement that Libya's actions were wrong.

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Yours faithfully,
PETER JACKSON,
24a Western Avenue,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

Mythmatched

From Mr Fritz Spiegel

Sir, I once found *Leap Over the Wall*, in which Monica Baldwin recounted her escape from an enclosed order of nuns, on a bookshelf labelled "Athletics". That was almost as good, I think, as the library index reference I heard of where Chiang Kai-shek was tracked down under "ISSIMO, General, Chiang Kai-shek".

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGEL,
4 Windermere Terrace,
Liverpool 8, Merseyside,
October 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

NEW RELEASES

BOYZ IN THE HOOD (15): Black urban drama from hot-shot director John Singleton, played high with realism, but somewhat over-the-top. With Laurence Fishburne, Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr. (Cannes: Hayward, 071-552 1627) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0200) Screen on the Green (071-522 0202) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

DEAD AGAIN (15): An L.A. actor murder from the Forties returns to haunt Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. Nonstop, over-the-top suspense thriller. Branagh directs. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

DOCTEUR PETIT (12): French social realist film (Michel Seneor) chilling scenes around Nazi-occupied Paris. Boldly styled in German Expressionist style. Director, Christian de Chalonge. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

FLUTTING (12): Steps to maturity at age 16. A beautiful young man in 1955. Delightful sequel to 'The Year of the Frog' from director John Dugan. With Noah Taylor, Thandie Newton. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

HOMECOMING (15): David Mamet's study of a Jewish cop in New York's ankle pit. Started as a comedy, but a vivid picture of urban hell. Starring Joe Mantegna. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

MORTAL THOUGHTS (15): Brutal brutal body gets his throat slashed, wife and best friend have blood on their hands, and the police on their tail. Stylish, brooding drama. With David Morrissey, Alan Rickman, Bruce Willis. Director, Alan Rickman. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

CURRENT

AUNT JULIA AND THE SCRIPTWRITER (12): Giuseppe (Roberto Rezzon) tells for a lady (Barbara Hershey), while a soap opera writer (Peter Faiman) weaves magic spells.

BECKET: Rivaling performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Henry II and the archbishop. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-570 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 15mins.

BLACK SNOW: Robin Bailey's satirical parody of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in a futuristic setting. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

A BRIGHT LIGHT SHINING: David Aronoff's film, set in New York, is a play about a futuristic vision of a city in a Scottish village. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

CARLUCCIO AND THE QUEEN OF HEARTS: David Aronoff's film, set in New York, is a play about a futuristic vision of a city in a Scottish village. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

GOOD GUY MISS MOLLY: Cheryl Chase's film, set in New York, is a play about a futuristic vision of a city in a Scottish village. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK: Good things in this, a satirical comedy. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE INVISIBLE MAN: Jon Finch in a new production of H.G. Wells' thriller. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Connors sports a golden wig for this gaudy, trashy musical. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol #) on release across the country.

Zestful treatment of Mario Vargas Llosa's multi-layered novel. Director, Jon Amiel. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

CITY SLICKERS (12): Over-the-top sentimental comedy, with Billy Crystal and Chevy Chase. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE COMMITMENTS (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

DOE: HOLLYWOOD (12): A sound comedy (Michael Lander) set in the sticks. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

EDWARD II (15): Riveting reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE LAST DAYS OF DON JUAN: Sexual thrills in a Seville. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES: The Revenuers' comedies. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THE SEAGULL: Superb ensemble production in a new production of Anton Chekhov's play. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

A SWELL PARTY: Four singers, two pianists in a new production of Cole Porter's play. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

TARTUFFE: Paul Eddington, John Sessions. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THUNDERBOLTS F.B.I. - THE NEXT GENERATION: The cult version of cult television show, performed by two actors wearing sequined suits. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

Palace, Argy Street, W1 (071-494 5077). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 15mins.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

Eastbourne, Ipswich, Buxton, Weston- Super-Mus and Derbent. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

DANCE UNBELL: Laurie Booth, (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

PHILHARMONIA: Italian event-garde composer Luciano Berio's new work. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

OPERA 80: The company's new season starts at Wolverhampton with alternate performances of Stephen Medford's. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

LONDON CITY BALLET: Despite its small size and limited resources, London City Ballet now regularly has leading dancers from Moscow and Paris as members of its company. (Cannes: Fullscreen Road (071-570 2630) Fullscreen Road (071-570 0202) Empire (071-497 5555) Whiteley (071-752 3332)

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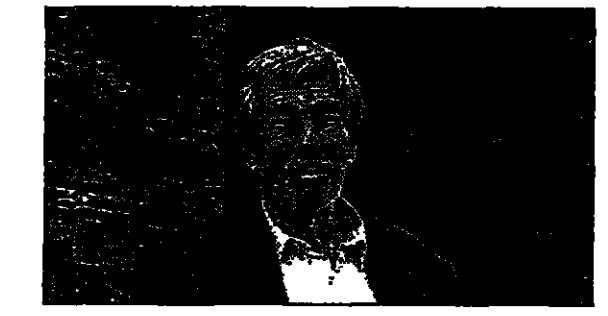
It's Ralph Comedy



Arresting the drug baron: a DEA agent with his catch (8.30pm)

9.30 DEA: Undercover Eddie
 CHOICE: A six-part fly-on-the-wall documentary series on the work of the US Drug Enforcement Administration begins with this tale of 'Undercover Eddie', a pushy young agent with a ponytail, who gets his kicks from infiltrating the ranks of dangerous drug barons, then moving in for the kill. Dealer Sam Esel, head of an international Nigerian drug-trafficking organisation, is his latest potential prison inmate. "I'm counting on this guy to come through for me - my victory, his demise", says Eddie with a smirk. It's a messy first programme, devoid of a narrator and consequently hard to follow, although the sporadic subtitles help to explain the drug-dealer. Still, there is plenty of spicy tension as the hidden cameras reveal both the secret meetings between Eddie and the unsuspecting badasses, and on about Day 105, the "big sting", when the villains get their come-uppance. (Ceefax) (s)
10.30 Sportnight Desmond Lynam introduces championship boxing from Leeds Town Hall as Henry Wharton defends his Commonwealth Super-Middleweight title against Lou Gent. Plus, a look at Eddie Jovan's winning formula one racing team, which includes Andrea De Cesaris and Bertrand Gachot; a report from the British boxing annual awards presentation and the latest football news and results.
11.20 Film: Hard Contract (1989) Tense, verbose drama starring James Coburn as an enigmatic professional assassin who falls in love with an unsuspecting Lee Remick. Directed by S. Les Pogostin. Wales. Film 91 with Barry Norman; 11.50 Film: Hard Contract
 1.05am Weather

8.00 Ceefax 5.30 BBC Breakfast News
 9.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion
 9.50 Hot Chefs, Paul Gayler prepares nicotia and spinach gnocchis
 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 The Family News. Cartoon adventures (r)
 10.30 Happy Menagerie. Nostalgia show in which Cliff Michelson and Wendy Gibson are able to relive viewers' memories with music and archive film
 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 No Kidding. Mike Smith and Katie Copstick host another round of the family quiz game (s)
 11.30 News Today
 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Pebble MIM. The winners of the Radio Times Comedy Awards are announced 12.55 Regional News and weather
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) 1.50 Four Squares. Knock-out quiz (s)
 2.15 Hawaii Five-O. Full Feature Film. The long-running American police series. McGarrett (Jack Lord) battles a cruise ship murderer (r)
 3.05 PrimeTime. David Jacobs and Sheila McClellan return for a new series aimed at the mature viewer, and introduce a new feature, *Sky at Six*
 3.50 Dooby's Duck Truck. Cartoon series (r) 3.55 Orville and Cuddles. Cartoon 4.00 F.L.P. Comedy series starring Trevor Laird 4.20 The Chipmunks. Cartoon 4.35 Harbort. Tony Hart and Gabriella Bradshaw with innovative ideas on art
 5.00 Newsround 5.10 Byker Grove. Third episode of the 10-part children's drama set in a Newcastle youth club. (Ceefax)
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s). Norfolk and Norwich. Weather
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
 6.30 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax)
 7.00 Wogan. Terry talks to former hostage Jackie Mann and his wife Megan, and meets master artist Roger Ebbom (s)
 7.30 Tomorrow's World. In this week's edition of the science magazine programme, Karina Kelly reports on the endangered giant green turtles in northern Australia. Judith Hann travels to Hampshire where she discovers a natural form of pest control. (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Spotlight
 8.00 Specials. Realistic drama series about the private and public lives of five part-time police constables in the Midlands. (Ceefax) (s)
 8.50 Points of View presented by Anna Robinson (s)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax). Regional news and weather



Involved in a dirty business: Michael Gough in Belfast (8.25pm)

9.25 Children of the North: The Killing of Yesterday's Children
 CHOICE: Adapted from the novels of M.S. Power and directed by *Defence of the Realm's* David Drury, this four-part Northern Ireland thriller tells of an intriguing story with the clatter of showing equal potential for thriller. The only half-breed person, Arthur Apple, a visionary madman expertly played by Michael Gough, is quick to warn us how things are; he sees, he says, "an awful deception invading the souls of men..." Apple is swiftly recruited by the IRA to run a betting shop in Belfast laundering IRA funds, and soon ends up lying through his teeth like everyone else. Meanwhile, the Army, the RUC, the IRA and MI6 bit with each other in preparation for the day when they will all make deals together. It's heavy-handed and over-nasty in parts, as when the IRA hitman (Adrian Dunbar) gets stuck into his tame prostitute while running through past murders in his mind, but it's the machievellian politics that make this worth watching. (Ceefax) (s)
10.20 Fifth Column A personal opinion about a topical subject
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show Journalist Ben Woolly reports on Tokyo's struggle to find a new corporate identity 11.55 Weather

8.00 TV-am
 9.25 Jeopardy! Quiz in which Steve Jones supplies the answers and the contestants have to provide the questions 9.55 Thames News and weather
 10.00 The Time... The Place... Live topical discussion programme
 10.40 This Morning. Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley present the family magazine programme, including at 11.00 *Children's Health*. A new weekly six-part series in which Dr. Chris Steele puts childhood ailments under the microscope, including at 10.55 News headlines 11.55 Thames News and weather
 12.10 Allsorts. Children's entertainment (s)
 12.30 News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle)
 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama series (s)
 2.20 Rugby World Cup '91. Frank Bough introduces live coverage from Cardiff of the play-off for third and fourth places between Scotland and New Zealand, the two losing semi-finalists. Plus a look at how the finalists England and Australia are preparing for the big match on Saturday
 4.15 Children's ITV beginning with *Rolf's Cartoon Club*. Wacady's Tim Mallett reveals his favourite cartoons 4.40 Time Riders. Third in a four-part science fiction series. Starring Haydn Gwynne
 5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holness hosts the quiz for teenagers
 5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
 5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprockley investigates canoeing
 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle)
 6.30 Thames News. (Oracle)
 7.00 The Late Show. Michael Aspel opens his red book to reveal the past life of a unsuspecting celebrity (s)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)



Comic vision: Benny Hill in a line-up of famous guests (8.00pm)

8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight Des is joined by comic Benny Hill, American singer Mariah Carey, singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka and pop singer Kim Appleby, for an hour of music and comedy (s)
8.00 Film: Someone to Watch Over Me The first showing on network television for this stylish romantic thriller about a New York cop (Tom Berenger), whose loyalties are divided between his loving wife (Lorraine Bracco) and the wealthy socialite (Mimi Rogers) he is assigned to protect. Directed by Ridley Scott, whose film credits include *Alen*, *Blade Runner* and *Thelma and Louise*. (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle)
10.40 Film: Someone to Watch Over Me Continued
11.35 Rugby World Cup '91 David Bohn introduces highlights of this afternoon's third and fourth place play-off from Cardiff
12.30am Film: Sexpionage (1985) Lucidstate made-for-television espionage film about young Russian girls who are trained to use their seductive charms to gather intelligence. Starring Linda Hamilton, Geena Davis, Sally Kellerman and James Franciscus. Directed by Don Taylor
2.15 America's Top Ten Tom Puett presents the latest chart sounds, pop videos, news and gossip from the United States (s)
2.40 Videofashion
3.10 Quiz Night Tom Robbins presents the pub and club team competition
3.40 Switch by My Bedside. The newsreader Sandy Gall talks to Brough Scott about the books that he is currently reading, including a thriller by John Le Carré and the *Michelin Guide to France*
4.10 Motorsport The British Sidecar Motor-cross Grand Prix
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w) Archive newsreels from late October 1941
5.00 Witness to Survival Marie Hanson/The Rodriguez Family. Two courageous tales about ordinary people struggling to survive
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Rens. Ends at 6.00

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily
 9.25 Schools
 12.00 Promises of Nature: Life in a Pond. A revealing insight into the micro-organisms that can be found above and below the surface of a fresh water pond
 12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the City
 1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is the actor Robin Williams
 2.00 Faith, Hope and Charity: Revelation. Third of a ten-part series on religious issues. Ronald Eyre examines the idea of the Revelation with Dr Ruth Page, a Christian, and Dr Zaid Badawi, a Muslim (s)
 2.30 Film: Edison, the Man (1940, b/w). Romantic biopic, starring Spencer Tracy as Thomas Edison, the inventor of the electric light. Rita Johnson stars as his wife. Directed by Clarence Brown
 4.30 Fifteen-to-One. William G. Stewart hosts the quick-fire quiz (s)



Smiles of success: Oprah Winfrey, Michael J. Fox (5.00pm)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show The baby-faced actor Michael J. Fox, star of the television comedy series *Family Ties* and films such as *Back to the Future*, talks about his career and family (s)
5.55 Wilo the Wisp Cartoon (r)
6.00 Kate and Allie Kate and the Cab Driver. American comedy series about two American divorcees. Starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross live from the Ed Sullivan Theatre in New York (s)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather
7.50 Party Political Comment from a representative of the Green party
8.00 Brookside Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s)
8.30 Trelawny
 CHOICE: A new series of the travel programme aimed at the adventurous. A promising line-up of would-be explorers over the next few weeks includes poet and comic John Hegley, Patrick Barlow from the National Theatre of Brent and Simon Hoggart, the journalist and US-watcher. Tonight it's the turn of chirpy Andy Kershaw, who samples life in Mongolia, once great under Genghis Khan, now hoping to attract tourists by invoking the Genghis Khan name wherever possible. First stop is the industrial capital Ulan Bator, which Kershaw promptly compares to Sheffield. Then it's off to the country where he has much more fun playing Frisbee in the Gobi desert and giggling at a boy riding a horse while carrying a sheep, then dropping the sheep. It is not the most reverent of approaches but it is certainly entertaining and there are nuggets of history and sensible comment along the way (s)
8.00 Dispatches Sir Tilly Maclean visits the former Soviet republic of Georgia and talks to Sviad Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's first elected president, among others
8.45 Short and Curious: A Nice Arrangement Meera Syal's short drama in which Meena (Tania Rodrigues) leaves it until her wedding day to decide whether to marry the fiancé arranged for her by her Asian family or to stay with her boyfriend (r). (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls Stand By Your Man. Addictive comedy with the four Miami matrons
10.30 Paul Merton: The Series The deadpan comedian rounds off the series by showing us the worst thing that can happen at the dentist, in an ambulance and at the disco (s)
11.00 US: The Bofores The penultimate episode in the series on immigrant families in Britain meets Ghana-born Sam Bofo and his family, who live in London's East End
11.45 Tonight with Jonathan Ross from the core of the Big Apple (r) (s)
12.15am Film: The Bombay Boy Continuing the season of Indian love stories from the Bombay film studios. Sharmil Kapoor stars in a colourful musical as a rich boy on holiday in Kashmir, who falls in love with a poor girl (Saira Bano) and has to deal with the disapproval of his parents. In Hindi with English subtitles. Directed by Subodh Mukherjee. Ends at 2.50

TV VARIATIONS
ANGLIA
 As London except: 8.25-7.00pm Anglia News
BORDER
 As London except: 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Wednesday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00pm Home and Away 8.20-8.50pm Newsround 8.55-9.00pm Newsround 9.00-9.30pm Newsround 9.30-10.00pm Newsround 10.00-10.30pm Newsround 10.30-11.00pm Newsround 11.00-11.30pm Newsround 11.30-12.00pm Newsround 12.00-12.30pm Newsround 12.30-1.00pm Newsround 1.00-1.30pm Newsround 1.30-2.00pm Newsround 2.00-2.30pm Newsround 2.30-3.00pm Newsround 3.00-3.30pm Newsround 3.30-4.00pm Newsround 4.00-4.30pm Newsround 4.30-5.00pm Newsround 5.00-5.30pm Newsround 5.30-6.00pm Newsround 6.00-6.30pm Newsround 6.30-7.00pm Newsround 7.00-7.30pm Newsround 7.30-8.00pm Newsround 8.00-8.30pm Newsround 8.30-9.00pm Newsround 9.00-9.30pm Newsround 9.30-10.00pm Newsround 10.00-10.30pm Newsround 10.30-11.00pm Newsround 11.00-11.30pm Newsround 11.30-12.00pm Newsround 12.00-12.30pm Newsround 12.30-1.00pm Newsround 1.00-1.30pm Newsround 1.30-2.00pm Newsround 2.00-2.30pm Newsround 2.30-3.00pm Newsround 3.00-3.30pm 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● LAW 35
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US district attorney says UK has not helped in BCCI enquiry

SFO accused of failing to co-operate

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE Serious Fraud Office has been accused of failing to co-operate with American investigators into alleged corruption and money-laundering by the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

In his second complaint about British institutions in four months, Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan district attorney, told *The Times* that he spoke personally to the fraud office in mid-July but "did not get anywhere". He added that members of his staff were in London ten days ago, when they again offered senior SFO officials a chance to exchange information that could assist enquiries into the BCCI affair.

Mr Morgenthau, who began investigating the Luxembourg-based bank's dealings in 1989, has a reputation as one of America's toughest prosecutors. His office has no power of subpoena to obtain potentially useful documents or speak to would-be witnesses in Britain without British co-operation.

He said his staff have sent two letters proposing an exchange of information. One of his senior assistants also had lunch with Barbara Mills, the SFO's director, and Chris Dickson, the case controller on the BCCI investigation, he said. Yet the London office had "so far declined to make documents or witnesses available to us," Mr Morgenthau said. While his representatives "were treated courteously" in London, they were told that the fraud office could not co-operate with them until there

was "a deal with the liquidator". A spokeswoman for the fraud office yesterday declined to give details of the district attorney's alleged approaches or the alleged responses. "We do not feel it is appropriate for us to comment on what Mr Morgenthau said," she said after speaking to Mrs Mills. Mr Morgenthau said he did not understand why the roles of the liquidator and prosecutors should be linked. "We view our role as to find out what crimes have been committed and we thought that was the role of the SFO. We think that if we find where money has been stolen and where it has been hidden we could help recuperate assets," he said.

Investigators have estimated that BCCI may have defrauded depositors of between \$4 billion and \$15 billion between 1972 and last July, when banking regulators in eight countries, including Britain and America, closed down its operations after citing fraud and corruption. Depositors in Britain, among them local governments and families of Pakistani descent, are believed to have lost about \$4 billion.

The alleged stone-walling by the fraud office highlights the difficulty of co-ordinating the regulation of a bank for which no single central bank had supervision, even though the lending institution operated in about 70 countries in its heyday. The BCCI affair first made headlines last year, when a Florida judge fined it \$15 million for money-laundering after a guilty plea. It has since grown into what

Mr Morgenthau has called "the largest bank fraud in world financial history". BCCI was founded in the early Seventies by Agha Hasan Abedi, a Pakistani banker, and quickly became one of the biggest privately owned banks in the world.

"We have a lot of information which we think would be of help to the SFO," Mr Morgenthau said.

The fraud office was set up after the 1987 Criminal Justice Act to investigate and prosecute the most serious and complex frauds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As an independent body, it has extensive investigative powers that go beyond the limits of anti-fraud police forces.

Mr Morgenthau's complaints about the fraud office came barely four months after he complained publicly that the Bank of England was refusing to help his office look into the BCCI affair. He said the Bank has been "extremely co-operative" since early June, or shortly after his published remarks. Attention in Washington has refocused on BCCI in past days after President Bush ordered an enquiry into the relationship between Ed Rogers, a former White House aide, and Sheikh Kamal Adham, a leading figure in the banking scandal. Mr Rogers worked under John Sununu, Mr Bush's chief of staff, until this summer. Shortly after leaving, he was hired on a two-year contract worth \$600,000 by the sheikh, who is under investigation by American prosecutors for an alleged leading role in the BCCI affair.



Lunch, but "no co-operation": Barbara Mills, director of the Serious Fraud Office

CBI shows confidence up

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS signalled the beginning of the end of the recession yesterday when the latest large-scale survey from the Confederation of British Industry showed a marked boost in business confidence — but also revealed that the recession has hit even harder than has been recorded.

The CBI emphasised an uncomfortable dependence on exports, a worse than expected fall in demand and a forecast of a further 5,000 job losses in manufacturing, per week as much as the surge in general business optimism.

David Wiglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "We are now seeing the flickering signs of an upturn from what is still a severe recession."

The results of the CBI's survey showed that confidence among manufacturers has strengthened for the first time in three years, with 19 per cent more confident and 17 per cent less so than four months ago. With most, 64 per cent, still showing no change, this gives a balance of 2 per cent of those saying more over those saying less.

This represents a 28 percentage point change in confidence from the figure reported in the last CBI survey in July and is the biggest swing in confidence since 1982, and the biggest upward rise since 1963.

The Treasury, using an unpublished seasonally adjusted series based on the CBI's data, said it was the biggest quarterly rise in confidence for 17 years. Though CBI economists remain sceptical about the value of such a rise in confidence as an indicator at a time when other indicators in the survey are showing the recession still firmly in place, they pointed out yesterday that previous similar rises in confidence at parallel points in previous recessions have been followed by actual increases in output and orders, and they expect that to happen again.

In the 1975 trough, output began to increase at the same time as confidence returned, though in the 1980 downturn output only started to grow

some time afterwards. Companies are now expecting a slight improvement in orders over the next few months, though the CBI acknowledged yesterday that demand, output and employment had all fallen more than was expected at the time of the last survey in July.

Employment in particular is expected to worsen. The CBI said that manufacturing employment is estimated to have fallen by 69,000 in the third quarter, and was forecast to fall by a further 61,000 in the final three months.

City mops up BAe loose ends

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

ALMOST 12 million shares in British Aerospace, a tenth of the group's rights issue, were placed among financial institutions at 357p by BAe's brokers yesterday, in an attempt to mop up loose holdings after the near-complete failure of the issue. Only 4.9 per cent of the £430 million new shares were taken up at the asking price of 380p, mainly by small shareholders.

BAe shares, which have stayed obstinately below the rights price, fell a further 6p to 363p with little sign of any stake-building. Kleinwort Benson, BAe's adviser, maintained that the extent of the failure reflected the underwriting mechanics and that the remaining 85 per cent of the issue should not be regarded as overhanging the market. Most of the sub-underwriters were existing BAe institutional shareholders who had chosen to take their new BAe shares via their underwriting allotment rather than by subscribing to the rights issue.

The bankers said they had sub-underwritten the issue largely by going to institutional shareholders and offering them 14 per cent commission, equivalent to 6p per share, to guarantee to take unwanted stock pro rata with their existing holdings.

When the issue seemed doomed to fail, underwriting shareholders decided not to subscribe, since they would get stock anyway through underwriting. They received new shares at a cost of 374p net of commission, although they are still showing a loss.

Kleinwort canvassed potential buyers and sellers yesterday morning before arranging the pooled placing through Hoare Govett and Kleinwort Securities, albeit at nearly 10p a share less than originally hoped.

Dealers' attempts to continue Monday's rally in share prices failed. An early market-up pushed the FTSE 100 share index up 19 points early in the morning, but buyers stayed away. The index ended 5.2 points down at 2,553.3.

Stock market, page 26
Comment, page 27

TODAY IN BUSINESS

DOUBLE DIP



Norman Lamont says we are seeing the biggest rise in optimism for 17 years, but the British economy could face the threat of a double dip recession
Page 27

IN TINSLETOWN

Toshiba and C Itob have become the latest to take a stake in Hollywood, revealing a joint partnership with Time Warner to control existing Time businesses in film, television and cable
Page 25

POST RESTANTE



Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, suggests that private competitors should charge 50p — against 24p charged for first-class letters at the moment
Page 25

JUST THE TONIC

SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical group, benefited from a £12 million lawsuit payment in the third quarter to end-September. Sales of Tagamet, the peptic ulcer medicine, rose 5 per cent
Tempsis, page 26

FROTHING OVER



Nobby Clark, the chairman of Foster's Brewery, has threatened to resign over not obtaining an assurance of support from the old chairman John Elliott
Page 24

THE POUND

US dollar 17195 (+0.0148)
German mark 29120 (+0.0004)
Exchange index 90.5 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1954.0 (-7.3)
FT-SE 100 2563.3 (-5.2)
New York Dow Jones 3045.39 (-0.23)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25140.61 (+238.89)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10½%
3-month Interbank 10½-10¾%
3-month eligible bills 10½-10¾%
US Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5¼-5½%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.88-4.89%
30-year bonds 102½-102¾

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1 7225
£ \$1 7227
£ DM 1 6800
£ Sfr 1 4785
£ FF 1 7735
£ Yen 130 81
£ Ind 50 5
£ SDR 1 7945
£ ECU 1 42019
£ SDR 1 25843

GOLD

London: 448.85
New York: 448.85
Gold 350 35.35
Silver 350 35.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$21.65 bbl (\$21.65)

RETAIL PRICES

Pl: 134.8 September (1987-1990)
Denotes midday trading price

NEDC likely to reject Japan-style bargaining

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government and Britain's employers are expected today to reject the idea that wage bargaining should be brought into line with more co-ordinated systems of pay negotiation used in countries such as Germany and Japan.

At a quarterly meeting of the tripartite National Economic Development Council, to be chaired by Michael Howard, employment secretary, both the government and the Confederation of British Industry will dismiss union suggestions that Britain should radically reform its system of pay bargaining.

Though the prime minister's office is known to have expressed interest in the idea of more co-ordinated pay bargaining, ministers are likely to be irritated by the issue's re-emergence at the NEDC. It will arise in discussion of a paper on wage bargaining and employment prepared by Dr. Walter Eltis, NEDC's director-general. The confidential paper, a copy of which

has been seen by *The Times*, is a firmly neutral description and analysis of greater co-ordination on pay.

The document, entitled *The Labour Market Challenge that Faces Britain*, presents a choice: continuing to move away from national pay agreements, so that pay is increasingly based on performance; or introducing the sort of co-ordination that other economies have managed to establish.

The paper says the question, which approach is likelier to succeed in the particular conditions of the UK is "a matter of judgment."

It does, however, make the point that Britain's "intermediate" position — a relatively high degree of collective bargaining alongside moves towards pay decentralisation — "may be rather disadvantageous in comparison with a wholehearted pursuit of either regime".

The document is expected to prove too much for both the

government and the Confederation of British Industry. Mr Howard is likely to reject any moves towards greater pay co-ordination, with the support of John Banham, the CBI director-general.

Both regard such developments as a negative step away from pay decentralisation and relating pay directly to performance, and as a return to what they see as the discredited economic machinery of the Sixties and Seventies.

Dr Eltis' paper is critical of the high pay increases awarded to some senior company directors.

"Telephone number salaries can have significant knock-on effects," it says. "The rewards of those who can turn round companies can go on to become the norm for those administering going concerns of the same size, even if they are being run rather unsuccessfully, so the link between pay and performance at the top can become tenuous."

Barclays responds to charges

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS Bank is planning to launch a new code of practice next month, designed to answer criticism of its service to small businesses and win business from high street rivals.

Confidential documents from the bank show that the code will offer more services to small businesses than Midland's business charter issued two weeks ago. A memo to branch managers says the bank wants "to improve our competitive position by introducing a code which is more attractive to businesses than that of the other banks."

The main feature will be a promise to send small business customers a full breakdown of interest and commission charges on their current accounts ten days before the end of each quarter.



Quinlan: more services

This will give companies time to complain about the charges with their manager before they are debited from their accounts. Until now banks have only supplied a breakdown of charges on request.

The new measure, to come into force at the end of next year, will cost Barclays an estimated £3 million a year, but it plans to absorb the cost without increasing charges. In

its charter, Midland said it was considering ways of introducing invoicing for cheques and other means of payment.

Sir John Quinlan, Barclays chairman, is producing the bank's new code in response to a request from the Chancellor last July. This came after the Treasury and the Bank of England had reviewed the banks' treatment of small businesses.

The Treasury received more than 1,000 letters of complaint about the banks during its enquiry, and Mr Lamont decided that the codes were needed to improve their service. He said that the codes should ensure that companies received a full tariff of all bank charges, and be given adequate warning of any change.

The Chancellor has given all the banks until the end of the year to produce their new codes, but they were given

new impetus last week when Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, accused the banks of being "high-handed and insensitive" in their dealings with small businesses.

Barclays' code goes further than these recommendations. All the bank's tariffs will be confirmed in writing, and businesses will be given one month's notice of any change in charges or interest rates. Companies will also be sent details of Barclays' complaints procedure in case of disputes with their branch.

The measures fall short of demands from small business pressure groups, however. The Forum of Private Businesses has called for legal contracts to be introduced between banks and their customers to safeguard the small businesses' interests.

Comment, page 27

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Salomon staff face pay cut to help with legal costs

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

SALOMON Brothers, the disgraced Wall Street investment bank, has told staff they must take a pay cut to help meet the legal expenses likely to stem from its unlawful attempts to rig prices in Treasury bond auctions.

The bank expects to have to pay out at least \$200 million in fines and other penalties, a sum it charged against third-quarter profits, which rose after tax and other payments from \$79 million to \$85 million.

Had the previous year's staff pay and benefit payments been maintained, the bank would have made a \$12 million loss in the quarter.

Salomon Brothers has cut the total cost of its compensation and benefits by 58 per cent from \$509 million to \$212 million and says that

total staff pay this year will be lower than last.

The bank is renowned on Wall Street for routinely paying multimillion-dollar bonuses to executives, and Warren Buffett, the new chairman, says some of these had been paid irrespective of whether executives had contributed significantly to profits performance.

In a statement to shareholders yesterday, Mr Buffett described Salomon's pay structure as "irrational in certain crucial respects". He said that last year when the securities arm of the firm earned a 10 per cent return on equity — far below the average American business — 106 individuals were paid \$1 million or more. And when group profits were flat, total pay jumped by more than \$120

million. Mr Buffett now wants to pay a greater proportion of the bonuses in Salomon shares which must be held for at least five years.

He said: "Our pay for performance philosophy will undoubtedly cause some managers to leave... Were an abnormal number of people to leave the firm, the results would not necessarily be bad. In the end, we must have people to match our principles, not the reverse."

A spokesman for Salomon said last night that the bank had not yet set bonuses for this year. Salomon's bonus year runs to the end of September while its financial year matches the calendar.

Salomon staff usually know the extent of bonuses by this time.

The bank is being investigated by four government agencies and faces almost 40 legal actions after admitting unlawful dealings in eight American Treasury bond auctions between last December and May.

It claims to have made very little profit from the deals. Of a total \$19.7 million made in eight auctions, only \$3.3 million to \$4.6 million was made from bids that were unauthorised.

Mr Buffett says from what he knows so far, there were only a few employees who behaved "segregiously".

Salomon has sacked Paul Mozzer, its chief Treasury bond trader, who had collected \$11 million in pay and bonuses in three years to 1990, and Thomas Murphy, his deputy. Four other top executives, including John Gutfreund, Mr Buffett's predecessor, have resigned.

Salomon shares were unchanged at \$26.125 in early trading on Wall Street yesterday but climbed \$1.375 on Monday shortly before Salomon took what its staff described as the unconventional step of releasing its quarterly figures as copy for a double-page spread advertisement in three prominent newspapers. This was about 15 hours before they were generally available to US investors via the New York Stock Exchange.

A spokesman for the bank said: "We took action in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post because we wanted to say what we wanted to say. We delivered the copy to the New York Times at 6pm last night. The action was cleared with the lawyers."

Salomon's profit figures were running in London well before American investors had woken up and before the 9.30am start to trading in New York.



Morning assembly: Sir Dennis Weatherstone, chairman, said the bank's new building gave the means to manage risk into the next century

Compete at 50p a letter, says PO

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government should reduce the monopoly threshold for letter posting initially to 50p, the Post Office suggested yesterday, with the option of cutting it further once the impact of the reduction on postal services had been examined.

The suggestion, made by Sir Bryan Nicholson, PO chairman, is the first time that the Post Office has publicly put forward a concrete proposal on the monopoly price level since John Major announced in the citizen's charter in July that the present 1£ minimum for posting a letter with a firm competing with the Royal Mail would come "much closer" to the price of first class mail, currently 24p.

Since then, the PO and the trade department have been in regular discussions on the charge level, which in effect gives the Royal Mail a monopoly on handling letters. A lower charge will expose the Post Office to competition.

Ministers have not made their views clear, although both the trade department and the PO Users National Council, the industry's watchdog, were made aware of the contents of Sir Bryan's statement well in advance of his making it yesterday at a conference in London on the future of European postal services.

Edward Leigh, industry minister, confirmed the gradualist approach proposed by the PO. Speaking at the same conference, he said there

would be "no big bang" for the PO, and while he would not put a government figure on the monopoly threshold, he said: "Our aim is to reduce it until it reaches the minimum level that is necessary to allow the Post Office to meet its obligations."

Sir Bryan told the conference there was no customer benefit to be gained from throwing caution to the wind, and proposed a step-by-step approach: "After an initial reduction, perhaps to 50p, new entrant activity could be reviewed to see its effect on customers as a whole, and further reductions made if appropriate."

While he said there was strong support for choice and competition, he gave a warning that it would be wrong if any group were penalised in terms of cost or quality as a result of giving an advantage to any other group, "however vociferous they may be". Some potential private couriers have been lobbying both the PO and the government hard on the monopoly threshold.

The government intends to create a new regulator for the PO, already dubbed "Ofpost" along the lines of similar regulators for BT, British Gas and others.

Also at the conference, the UCW communications union released the results of a Mori poll carried out for the union which it said showed that privatisation of the Royal Mail would be unpopular.

JP Morgan goes to school in the City

By NEIL BENNETT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, officially opened the new London headquarters of JP Morgan in the former City of London School.

The American investment bank's new building is an emblematic commitment to the City. Four years and £400 million were spent redeveloping the school. The bank has recouped £220 million by selling 52.5 per cent of the lease to Sun Microsystems, the Japanese bank.

The focus of the building is the marble great hall, built in 1881. The front of the building is listed and may not be altered, though every room now has a new purpose. The headmaster's study has become a dining room.

The rear has been rebuilt to house a 280-seat trading room. In all, 1,000 staff will be housed in an area of 450,000 sq ft.

In his speech, Mr Leigh-Pemberton reminded his audience that the bank was founded in London in 1838, 23 years before it opened in New York.

Sir Dennis Weatherstone, the bank's chairman, said the building offered the means of managing risk into the 21st century. The lesson of the last few years, he said, "is that risk can and must be managed, not just avoided."

Advertising slump puts Thames £4m into red

By MARTIN WALLER

TWO of the unsuccessful bidders in the independent television franchise round, Thames TV and Television South West Holdings, have unveiled financial figures that show the scars of the advertising downturn in the industry.

Thames has reported a £4.04 million loss before tax, against profits of £10.3 million last year, and slashed the interim dividend from 5.15p to 2.5p. The group is blaming heavy expenditure on programmes transmitted and sold, which rose from £77.4 million to £91.5 million.

This was largely an accident of timing, said Derek Hunt, the finance director, as four substantial drama series were transmitted during the first half, the costs of all of which have to be taken immediately.

They would be offset in the second half by strong programme sales, and Thames is forecasting "a substantial

operating profit" from the final six months of the year.

Net advertising revenue fell 8.3 per cent during the first half, and there was an additional impact from the Gulf war on revenue and the costs of Independent Television News.

Richard Dunn, the chief executive, said Thames would be maximising future earnings for shareholders as the franchise expired. This is likely to mean the cancellation of some local programming, although the broadcaster will keep to its contractual minimum level agreed with the Independent Television Commission, the industry watchdog.

Thorn EMI owns almost 59 per cent of Thames TV, and there has been speculation that it may eventually launch a bid for the minority shares.

The market does not believe a buyout will come immediately, as under City

takeover rules an approach would have to be at the 250p level at which Thorn offered to buy shares in February. Thames shares fell 4p to 197p yesterday.

Thames plans to continue as an independent producer. TV South West has yet to state its future course, but it has announced pre-tax profits down from £4.7 million to £146,000 in the 12 months to end-July. The reported figure would have been three times as large, said Sir Brian Bailey, the chairman, but for the cost of mounting the franchise bid.

The company, which has changed its financial year end, is paying a 2p second interim dividend as well as a 0.77p special payout. It plans a 3p final, which will give a 7p total for the 17 months to end-December, maintaining dividend payments at their previous levels despite the profits downturn.

Whisky bid is finely balanced

By MARTIN BARROW

THE takeover battle for Invergordon Distillers, which closes at 1pm today, appeared finely balanced last night after Whyte & Mackay claimed to speak for 41.5 per cent, but parties considered supportive of the board mopped up more than 1 million shares.

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank advising Invergordon, and de Zoete & Bevan acquired 656,000 and 434,000 shares respectively at the offer price of 275p. Whyte & Mackay dismissed the purchases as "a spoiling tactic".

Funds associated with Flemings already speak for 15 per cent of Invergordon while BZW Investment Management holds about 1.5 per cent. Whyte & Mackay increased its own shareholding to 39.2 per cent and confirmed that it had received acceptances in respect of 2.3 per cent for its cash offer of 275p, giving it control over 41.5 per cent.

Hello Tosh — Time Warner gets a Toshiba link-up in deal worth \$1bn

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TOSHIBA Corporation, one of Japan's most conservative industrial groups, has succumbed to the siren lights of Hollywood. With C Itoh, Japan's largest trading company, Toshiba has announced a \$1 billion investment in a new entertainment company that will control the film and television production and distribution, cable system operations and cable programming of Time Warner.

The investment in Time Warner, whose chairman is Steven Ross, is conspicuous for its caution in comparison with the acquisitive approach of two rival Japanese electronics companies. When Sony Corporation bought Columbia Pictures in September 1989, it paid \$3.4 billion. Last December, Matsushita Electric purchased MCA, the parent of Universal Studios, for \$6.1 billion. Both paid for outright control and entertained visions of cross-fertilising the genius of Japanese electronic engineers with the artistic magic of Hollywood.

According to reports in Japan, Time Warner, which has \$8.7 billion debts, tried to persuade Toshiba and C Itoh to make a cash injection on the scale of the Sony and the Matsushita deals.

Hiroshi Nakada, an electronics industry economist at Long Term Credit Bank, said: "Time Warner is also desperate for cash. Its new Japanese partners will not see dividends for some time."

But the kind of ill-defined synergy between hardware and software that Sony and Matsushita reputedly sought



Looking to Japan: Steven Ross, of Time Warner

evidently did not appeal to the chief executives of Toshiba and C Itoh.

While they may have enjoyed Warner's *Batman*, which took Tokyo by storm, most Toshiba men have traditionally been more interested in the inner workings of nuclear reactors and semiconductor than dramas from Tinseltown. Their finely negotiated deal will give them access to Time Warner's cable and pay-television businesses, without their having to take risks on the fortunes of lavish silver screen epics for their profits.

Unlike its rivals, Toshiba is not interested in much more than a loose link with Warner's film-making business. It is cable television where Toshiba would like to tap Time Warner's experience as America's second-largest cable operator, and where Toshiba is predicting future

alliance with C Itoh is unusual. Toshiba is tied into the Mitsui Group, one of the original industrial combines or *zaibatsu* that have existed since before the war on the basis of mutual cross-shareholdings between member companies.

The Mitsui Group includes Mitsui Bussan, one of C Itoh's biggest trading rivals. In a nation where the fiercely competitive *zaibatsu* still exert enormous influence on corporate relationships, such a blatant breaking of allegiances is remarkable.

Both companies are well positioned for the near term future. Joichi Aoi, Toshiba's president, believes that consumer electronics, the core business of both Sony and Matsushita, has been going through a decline. Few believe this trend will be reversed for some time. At Toshiba, consumer products account for 20 per cent of sales, as opposed to 40 per cent at Matsushita and 80 per cent at Sony.

Toshiba's engineers are forging ahead with new developments in its traditional semiconductor, electronics and computing businesses. They have a capital spending budget of ¥250 billion (\$1.1 billion) for the current fiscal year and ¥272 billion for research and development.

While Toshiba would have had little difficulty in raising the capital for an all-out purchase of Time Warner, the cautious and limited nature of Toshiba's investment, shared with C Itoh, reflects the extent to which corporate values differ between Toshiba and Sony and Matsushita, its electronics rivals.

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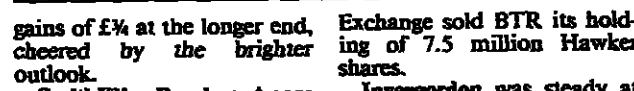
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Half time

old, which was worth 300p at its peak. Cautious investors should sell in the market but Grampian's paper will appeal to the longer-term view.

STOCK MARKET



Hillsdown, 2p dearer and 202p, and Dalgety, 1p cheaper at 380p, are regarded as being

BTR now speaks for 7 per cent.
Last week, Guardian Royal

year and beyond, he says. These views also continue to be echoed by rival Kleinwo-

Green: franchise hopes
Benson, which remains strong buyer of the sector.

WALL STREET

MICHAEL CLARK

Coats sell-on

Coats Viyella is continuing its refocusing with the disposal of the Tootal Apparel and Tootal Fashion divisions of Tootal Clothing to their management.

October 21 November 1 January 23 February 3
Call options were taken out on: 29/10/91 Australia & New Zealand Bank, ASD
Berkford Intl, BTR Wts, Gold Greenlees Trott, Haemocoil, Kunick, Lucas, Tuskar Res
WPP 8% Conv.
Put: FNFC.
Puts & Calls: Mountleigh, WPP.

Per Month	360	24	32	36	9	19	32
(*363)	384	6	19	27	25	35	48
	414	2	10	14	53	54	70
Br Telecom.	360	29	36	46	24	8	13
(*386)	390	8 1/2	19	29	13	21	26
	420	1 1/2	8	17	37	42	45

Dorsey	45%	46%	NL Inds	12%	12%	Waste Mgmt	36%
Dover	37%	37%	Nordstrom	23%	33%	Waste Frgo	66
Dow Chem	52%	52%	Norfolk Sthn	60	58%	Westco Elec	17
Dow Jones	24%	23%	Norwest	33%	33%	Weyerhae	27%
Dresser Ind	19%	20%	Ntn St Pwr	36%	36%	WinPool	35%
Du Pont	46%	47%	Ntn Telcm	41%	40%	Whitman	12%
Duke Pwr	31%	31%	NY Times	14%	14%	Winn-Dixie	28%

THE TIMES
PREGNANCY & BIRTH

100 Straits Times industrial
index rose 3.2 points to
1,405.76.
(Reuters)

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POINTMENTS
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NEWS PAGES
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81 4481

COMMENT

BAe puts on a brave face

Sir Graham Day, chairman of British Aerospace, put as brave a face as possible on the complete failure of the group's rights issue yesterday. The company has its money, after all, and sentiment was set against the issue right at the start by the confusion and uncertainty caused by the boardroom coup that ousted Professor Sir Roland Smith. Hectic lobbying of shareholders by Dick Evans, the chief executive, and finance director Dudley Eustace, backed by the comforting figure of Sir Graham, has already helped restore longer-term confidence among some of the most outraged institutions. Only a late general rise in share prices would, however, have persuaded underwriting shareholders to subscribe rather than acquire their extra shares by the back door. The prophecy of failure was self-fulfilling, keeping BAe shares below the rights price.

Management has the strongest of motivations for helping shareholders to recoup at least some of their losses, to persuade them not to welcome prowlers on the look-out for loose stock. The strongest card has been Mr Evans' plain assertion: "We will not come back with any more cash calls". This is full of meaning for investors to whom the main attraction of BAe shares is their rare 9 per cent dividend yield. Sir Graham has committed his board to living within its means, which requires a fundamental change of outlook for a company still undercapitalised in comparison with its most important international rivals.

Consolidation rather than adventure is the priority. Peripheral assets will be sold. Operational management will concentrate on cutting costs and work in progress in the core defence, aircraft and Rover car businesses. Anything that looks like absorbing cash will, if possible, be shunted into a joint venture, with the satellite and regional airline businesses at the top of the list. French companies are Mr Evans' most favoured partners, despite their reputation for never being equal partners.

The implications for the long-term future of BAe can only be guessed. BAe's strategy, set under Sir Roland and presented when the issue was announced, has not apparently changed. Indeed, it has been set in concrete. The interpretation may well prove quite different as ambition takes a back seat. BAe's main businesses have scope to generate cash and much bigger profits than ever before after the rationalisation programme, which will eventually save costs on a dramatic scale. If and when they do, on the back of recovery in their main markets, BAe shares would look a bargain at today's depressed price. Whether BAe will remain a world leader at the end of this process is quite another question.

Trying harder

The high street banks may seem like monolithic dictators to the small businessman whose finances have been roughly handled, but they too have their weaknesses. Their vulnerability is their intense rivalry, which has forced them into costly mistakes in the past, but now seems to be winning a better deal for all small businesses. Norman Lamont exploited this rivalry last July when he asked banks to draw up individual codes of conduct to answer the barrage of criticism about their inadequate service to small businesses during the recession. By shrewdly calling for separate codes, instead of imposing a single one devised by the Treasury, Mr Lamont turned the small business debate into a competitive issue. Confidential documents from Barclays show how hard it is working to better its neighbours.

The most notable feature of the bank's draft code, which will be launched next month, is its decision to send its 750,000 small business customers a breakdown of all the commission and interest charges ten days before the end of each quarter. This gives businessmen a week and a half to argue over any changes before, rather than after, they are debited. This makes Barclays' code rather more attractive than the one from Midland launched two weeks ago, although it falls short of demands from small business pressure groups for a service contract between banks and businesses. The new service will cost Barclays £3 million a year, although the bank is not planning to make any additional charge on customers. The banks may be high-handed and insensitive to their customers as Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, claimed last week, but they are certainly sensitive about the activities of their rivals.

British and US pessimists rush in as recession ends

Anatole Kaletsky

argues that fears of a "double dip" recession on either side of the Atlantic are without foundation

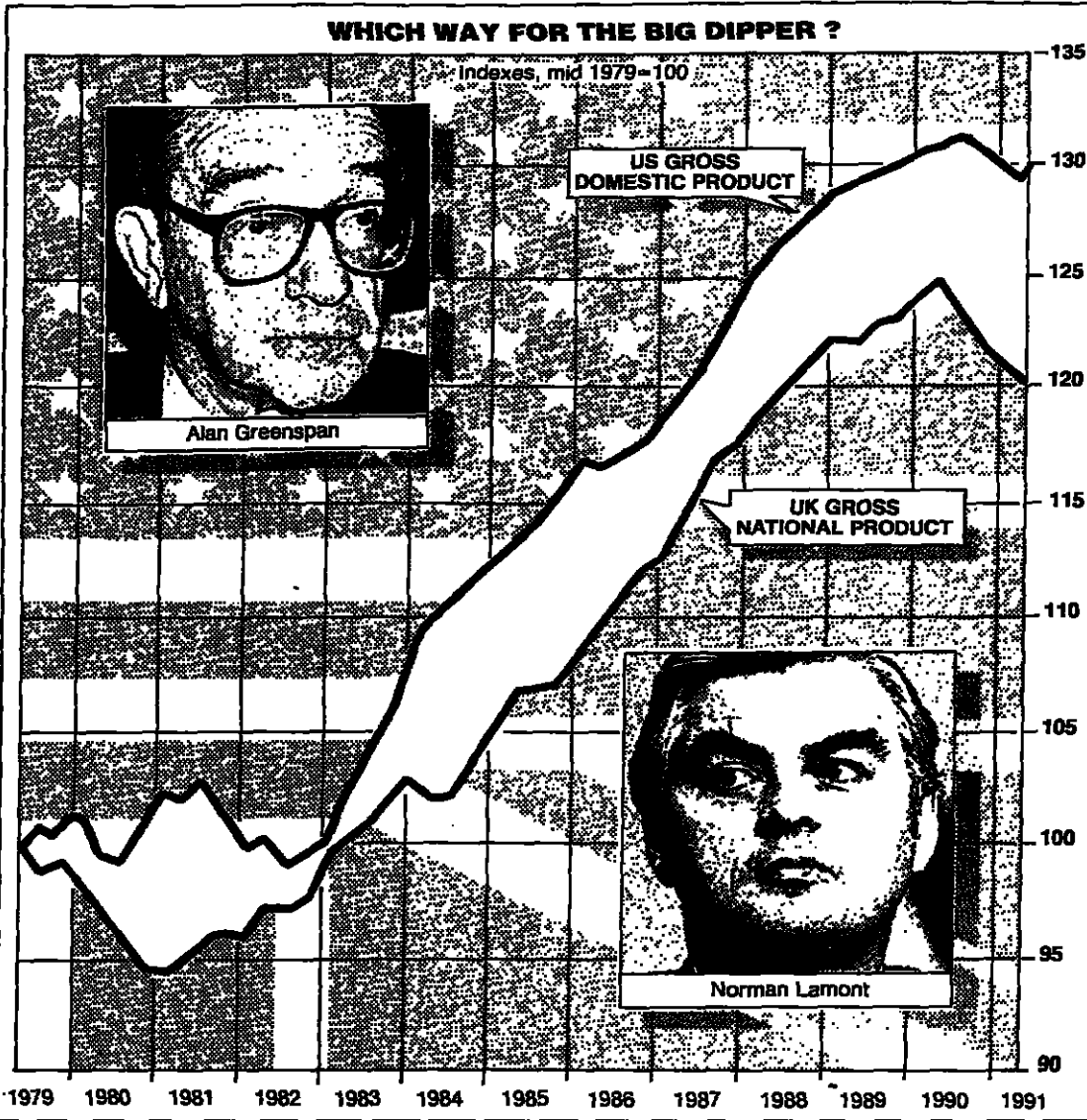
Economics is aptly called the dismal science. The recession of 1990-1, a misfortune confined exclusively to the Anglo-Saxon countries, is over. In America, the end of the recession was officially confirmed yesterday with the announcement of annualised growth of 2.4 per cent in third-quarter gross national product. In Britain, too, output has almost certainly stopped falling, judging by yesterday's upbeat survey of business confidence from the Confederation of British Industry. But instead of celebrating the end of the last recession, economists on both sides of the Atlantic are asking whether the next one is about to begin.

In America, financial and business circles are rife with talk of a "double dip", similar to the sudden fall in 1982 after a short-lived recovery from the Iranian oil crisis. President Bush's political advisers make no secret of their concern that a weak economy next year might undermine his re-election chances, despite opinion polls that put him further ahead than any president in modern times. Their anxieties appear justified.

In Britain, where the end of the recession has not been officially confirmed (third-quarter figures are due on November 19), worries about next year seem even better founded, although less widely expressed. Britain and America share many of the same structural handicaps, including excessive debt burdens, low productivity, growth, falling personal wealth and underinvestment in manufacturing. The British economy also faces more immediate problems — very high real interest rates, a challenging exchange rate and the prospect of weakening demand in Germany, its main export market. To make matters worse, there is the political uncertainty created by the general election and the threat to sterling from the looming confrontation between the Bundesbank's 2 per cent inflation target and the German unions' 12 per cent pay demands.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is unlikely to refer to any of these worries when he delivers the Treasury's latest economic forecasts in next month's autumn statement. This does not mean that his probable prediction of economic growth in the 2 per cent range is unrealistic. When Mr Lamont predicts a recovery next year, rather than a renewed recession, he is likely to be proved right. The question that economists and politicians should be asking is whether the recovery will be strong enough to cut unemployment, stave off more bankruptcies and satisfy the electorate.

Such questions are being asked in America today. Despite talk of



double-dip recessions, the real concern in Washington is about a recovery that is too sluggish to raise living standards, control unemployment and revive investment. The Democrats are not banking on an outright recession to defeat President Bush. They hope to embarrass him with another statistic. Even if the economy grows 3 per cent next year, they say, the average annual growth rate during the four years of the Bush administration will have been only 1.4 per cent, the lowest of any president since the second world war.

But fears of a double-dip recession on either side of the Atlantic are unfounded mainly because recessions rarely occur without encouragement from the government. Once an economy starts growing, the natural dynamics of rising business and consumer confidence — leading to stock-building and consumption, more demand, higher incomes and more consumption — tends to keep the economic engine ticking over, unless monetary or fiscal policy is abruptly tightened or the economy runs into an inflationary crisis. In America's double-dip recession of 1982, this is precisely what happened, when inflation jumped to 13 per cent and the Fed raised short-term interest rates to 20 per cent. The critical role of confidence in the initial stages of

recovery is one reason why the Treasury is right to consider the findings of forward-looking surveys like the CBI's more significant than some of the backward-looking economic statistics. It is also a reason why the British economy, in which business and consumer confidence have risen rapidly this year, may appear to be on firmer footing than that in America, where consumers remain depressed.

Fortunately for the Americans, their economic recovery has a more powerful force behind it than consumer psychology. Essentially, the American economy is going to recover because of extremely low interest rates and a highly competitive currency. American interest rates, at 5 1/4 per cent, are at their lowest level for 15 years and the dollar is near the all-time low set six months ago. The fact that the American economy remains stuck in near-recession, despite this monetary stimulus, is symptomatic of the gloom among consumers and the structural weaknesses of American industry and finance. Consumer confidence remains low, because real wages and housing wealth have fallen steadily for the last three years. The banks are failing to pass on the benefits of low interest rates to borrowers — the profit margin on a typical home mortgage in America has risen from 2 to 4 per cent or more as banks try to recover the

immense losses they suffered in the property and leveraged buyout crazes of the last decade. Meanwhile, the export boom that accounted for more than half the growth in the American economy since the abrupt devaluation of the dollar in late 1987 has run out of steam.

But the economy's weakness in the face of low interest rates does not mean that the Fed is "pushing on a string", in the Keynesian phrase. It simply means that the damage done to the economy during the Eighties may now justify much lower interest rates and a much more competitive currency, than would have been imaginable ten years ago. If interest rates at 5 per cent do not revive the economy, Mr Greenspan will go on cutting them until adequate growth is achieved. If manufacturers are struggling to maintain their export growth when the dollar is worth DM1.70 and ¥130, then the White House and the Fed can simply try to devalue the dollar further.

Given the choice of waiting for a slow "natural" recovery such as that favoured by Mr Lamont and stimulating the economy with falling interest and exchange rates, there is little doubt which way American policymakers are likely to turn. By this time next year the world will be able to judge which was the more successful approach.

Balancing skill of man and machine

PEOPLE get in the way of new technology, undermining investments that would otherwise dramatically boost profits. A study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council reveals that too many companies can run into difficulties because too few recognise that it is people who have to ultimately work the new machines.

When firms discuss whether to introduce new manufacturing systems, factors such as interest rates and the future of the economy hold sway over the likely impact on the labour pool, the study has found. The result is that many firms find themselves scrambling to recruit skilled staff from outside, while resorting to unscheduled short-term solutions such as raising salaries and overtime payments for those staff able to work the new systems.

Paul Foley, one of the report's authors, said: "A greater emphasis on workforce issues at an early stage may well help to overcome the problems of recruitment difficulties, skills shortages and increased training costs, which appear to be the unexpected by-product of introducing new manufacturing technologies."

Roy futures include a sharp rise in output, productivity, product quality, and material cost savings for those firms adopting new technologies such as computer-aided design.

The findings come from a survey of 52 large engineering firms in the Sheffield area by Dr Foley and Doug Watts, of the University of Sheffield. Preliminary findings are disclosed today at the launch of the council's New Technology and Firm Initiative in London. Most studies of this kind have focused on the role of new high-technology industries in regenerating Britain. This study focuses on traditional manufacturing firms that are introducing new technology. Just over half of the firms surveyed had introduced new technology in the past three years, with investment sums ranging from a few thousand pounds to £2.4 million, for an average of £275,000. Those adopting new technologies enjoyed an average output growth of about 23 per cent, while growth among those that had not was 7 per cent. Nearly 70 per cent of firms adopting new technologies also reported increased productivity, 61 per cent saw improvements in product quality, while 57 per cent made savings on the costs of materials.

Increases in employment averaging about 8 per cent were also reported among firms adopting new technologies, whereas those who did not showed a 4.6 per cent decline. Firms investing in new manufacturing systems also claimed they had become more innovative, placing more emphasis on research.

On the downside, a third of firms said use of new technologies had made them dependent on a sole supplier. The main problem was sudden skills shortages, with more than a fifth of firms needing to recruit more skilled staff, and training costs rising at more than a third of firms.

NICK NUTTALL
Technology Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cycling the way of de Broë

SOON after taking over as head of business development at Williams de Broë, Philip Darwall-Smith has poached one of Kleinwort Benson's senior investment managers. Robin Walker-Arnott, who led an investment team at KB — and later had £200 million under his control — has joined along with team-mate Neil Langley. In so doing, he has reunited with Charles Perry, another investment manager, who left KB two years ago. Darwall-Smith, who was given the task of winding up Stock Group after the demise of British Commonwealth, may have had more than simply a new client list in mind. Walker-Arnott is a keen cyclist, and his superb boss, as luck would have it, helps organise the annual London to Brighton cycle event.

In Tusa's shoes

JOHN Tusa, award-winning head of the BBC World Service, was back in front of the cameras last night to join in a debate on Eastern Europe. The choice was appropriate since not only was Tusa born in Czechoslovakia but his father, John, ran the British operations for Bata, the shoe company, for many years. Bata, which relocated to Canada in 1938, is now buying back into Czechoslovakia with a \$10 million deal, following a lead set by Volkswagen. "I only wore Bata shoes for the first 20 years of my life," says Tusa, a former *Newsnight* presenter. As such, he has something in common with Peter

Ratzer, whose Czech father helped Tusa's father run the British plant. Ratzer is group secretary and director of corporate finance at Eurotunnel.

Dealing a blow

BRIAN Kaye, newly appointed head of Fimat, the London financial futures subsidiary of Société Générale, has scored a direct hit on his rivals at Bank of America. He has signed up Alex Wilkinson as head of Fimat's dealing team at the London International Financial Futures Exchange, and persuaded two colleagues, Jacqueline Hewing and David Usher, to join him. "This is in line with our strategy of becoming a major broker in the shortest possible time," says Kaye, who is just back from Tokyo where, until recently, he ran SocGen's Japanese operations.

Double speak

INVESTMENT bankers in America are masters at the art of fobbing off useless queries. Now, some of their tricks have been committed to paper. A guide, *Business Babble*, A



Cynic's Dictionary of Corporate Jargon, makes essential reading for anyone hoping to climb the corporate ladder. A boss's sympathetic "No one is suggesting you are to blame" really means "You are to blame". "I like your idea but we must proceed cautiously," means "You must be joking. Come back in five years". "Didn't we try this once before?" means "No", and "Let's have lunch sometime" means "Get lost".

THE new manager of the Leeds building society branch in Hartlepool, Cleveland, is a Mr Lenderyou.

Charitable words

SIR Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of National Power, takes time off from his busy schedule next month to attend what is believed to be the first UK business seminar aid of charity. The Roof Garden Club in Kensington, west London, is the unlikely venue for discussion on tax, recession and financial markets. The list of executives who had to decline invitations to speak at the event, on November 26, makes intriguing reading: Sir Ian MacLaurin, of Tesco, John Derek Birkin, of RTZ, John Banham, of the Confederation of British Industry, Alan Sugar, of Amstrad, and — predictably — Sir John Harvey-Jones. "We wrote to them all, but they were too busy," says Dave Shillings, a director of Interfax Systems, the organiser, which is hoping to raise £60,000 for Children Nationwide, a charity which funds research into children's diseases.

JON ASHWORTH

Share price and herd instinct

From Mr A.H.B. Franklin
Sir, It is clear, as shown by the recent rise in Ultramar, that many share prices bear little relationship to the real value. Come a rumour of a takeover (whatever the opinions of analysts or previous lack of appeal to fund managers), the price will begin to rise. Once a bid is made the victim will protest, no doubt quite correctly, "Too little, too low, laughable etc", and the consequent rise in the share price will prove the point.

Why is the City always so short term? A Mr Paul Slatery (October 22) urges clients to bet Forté. He may be right. Analysts are sometimes, certainly not invariably, but what price Forté shares if a hostile bid is made in the near future? Certainly higher, by far, than the current quotation. Mr Slatery will be forgotten — except perhaps by

any clients who took his advice — in the inevitable battle which will follow a bid. I admit that I see no immediate solution to this surreal situation. The shrewd private investor who assesses correctly and sticks to his guns will be justified in reaping the profit he deserves. Unless there is a change of heart by fund managers who now virtually control the Stock Market through sheer weight of money, this "cloud cuckoo land" Stock Market will persist.

If these powerful investors, already unloved by industry, ever decide to abandon their herd instinct and look further ahead than they do now, perhaps many quotations would begin to represent more closely their underlying value. Yours faithfully, A.H.B. FRANKLIN, 58 Bath Road, Chiswick, W4.

Demise of advisers is exaggerated

From Mr P. Tarrant-Willis
Sir, I went along to the Fimbra AGM apprehensively — the news has not been good for insurance brokers and independent financial advisers bombarded by gloomy reports of our early demise from competitors.

I was galvanised by the chairman's determination that sensible and fair regulation would promote both professional standards and the maintenance of the impartial adviser sector. The conflict of interest inherent in the satellite "independent adviser" arm of an insurance and investment provider would be resisted by demanding the rule of strict polarisation, and that the consumer's interest was best served by encouraging an impartial ad-

viser market to lead the way to keener bargains for those who wish to take expert advice.

News of our demise is greatly exaggerated, it seems. If Sir Gordon Downey and his colleagues succeed in the aims he stated, the broker and independent adviser associations will have much to be thankful for. The insurance and investment providers may expect to continue to have to endure the awkward and cynical inquisition which helps to improve the bargain that every consumer receives. Yours faithfully, PETER TARRANT-WILLIS, Life & pensions insurance broker and independent adviser, 108 Mill Lane, West Hampstead, NW6.

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National lottery could provide answer

When a local authority has to close all its sports centres and swimming pools for one full day each week and subsequently close one of its pools completely, when it cannot afford to bring into use new playing facilities, when charges for sports facilities suffer excessive increases each half-year... then the delivery of "sport for all" must be in jeopardy.

But that is exactly what is happening in Basildon, Essex — and the problem is not just confined to this authority. As a member of the Sports Council and chairman of the Eastern Council for Sport and Recreation, I spend much of my time meeting key local authority members and officers to encourage further developments in sports and recreation. It is becoming

increasingly evident that the many changes in government legislation of recent years are having implications for sport. While many of these could provide benefits — for example, the introduction of a national curriculum for physical education — there are others which will fill me with concern, not least the consequences of recent legislation which seeks to restrict local authority expenditure.

Cambridge city council is witnessing an incremental dismantling of its recreation department which, for many years, has sought to provide for all sections of the community. The council claims that savings in excess of £600,000 are having to be made this year to avoid capping.

One third of the 48 district councils in the eastern region are saying that they will be



Trevor Brooking, the former England footballer and a member of the Sports Council, voices concern over legislation seeking to restrict local authority expenditure on sport

confronted with similar problems now that government has withdrawn the £15 million spending limit, above which authorities were previously subject to capping. The effect of this on sport and recreation, a discretionary service, could be disastrous if the Basildon and Cambridge situations are repeated elsewhere.

It is important, therefore, that government provides the necessary increases in local authorities' standard spending assessments when they are set

next month. In return, it is to be hoped that local authorities do not look to sport as the soft option for any necessary savings.

On the capital side, Huntingdonshire district council has had to defer provision of a new swimming pool; major refurbishment work at the regional sports centre in Luton has been deferred, while Epping Forest has been forced to cancel a sports centre project.

It has been argued that local

authorities are free to use revenue to assist capital funding. But, in practice, which local authorities would want to increase their poll tax, even if it did not take them into an "overspend" situation where "capping" would be applied?

It is to be hoped that capital allocations set later this year will give local authorities the opportunity to maintain and improve their sports facilities.

Education reform has created the environment for new partnerships and new initiatives. There are often good, but basic, school facilities which lack the ancillary accommodation appropriate for community use. In some instances, traditional wariness about barriers to wider community use of school facilities still prevail and hinder progress.

Nevertheless, I perceive a mood of optimism and some exciting projects are already emerging. The village colleges in south Cambridgeshire offer good examples of what can be achieved. Modest capital contributions from district and county councils and the Sports Council have enabled Cotnam to create a community sports centre and floodlit multi-games area with changing accommodation, reception and social areas.

At Linton, the head of physical education spends only 50 per cent of her time teaching — the balance (and more) is devoted to the promotion and development of community sport, both on site and in the surrounding rural areas.

This, then, may be one way ahead — but it should not be seen as a substitute for sufficient funding. A commitment to long-term funding is critical if we are to achieve our "sport for all" goals. Perhaps the introduction of a national lottery will be the answer to our prayers.

I admit that I was lucky and was provided with every opportunity to express my sporting skills. I am in the minority. There are, I know, many people who would enjoy all the benefits of sport if only they had the opportunities to participate and to realise their full potential. Certainly, some progress can be made without massive capital expenditure, but we do need a basic stock of good facilities. We owe it to future generations. The value of sport in improving the quality of life cannot be underestimated, and it must be recognised by all in a position to take positive action.

Italians part company with former Formula One champion

Prost's feud with Ferrari finally at breaking point

Maranello, Italy — Alain Prost, the three-time Formula One world champion, has had his contract terminated by Ferrari, five days before the final grand prix of the season in Australia.

In a brief statement yesterday, Ferrari said that it had decided to "discontinue its co-operation" with Prost, whose place at Adelaide would be taken by the young Italian driver, Gianni Morbidelli, who has been with the Minardi team.

Ferrari did not say if the breaking of Prost's contract was by mutual consent or if it had been taken the decision itself. Prost, aged 36, has driven for Ferrari for the last two years. His contract was due to expire in 1992, but yesterday's announcement came as no real surprise.

Relations between Ferrari and the Frenchman had soured this season. He has not won a race since the Spanish grand prix 13 months ago, and he has been linked with the French team, Ligier, possibly in a managerial role.

There had also been rumours that he might join the British driver, Nigel Mansell, his former Ferrari colleague, at Williams-Renault next year

in a swap with Riccardo Patrese.

Prost lies fifth in the championship, and had hinted that the design of the Ferrari was behind his lack of success.

Prost, who has won a record 44 grands prix, moved to Ferrari last season after winning the 1989 title with McLaren.

He had previously been world champion in 1985 and 1986, but his lack of success this season fuelled press criticism in Italy, and he said after the German grand prix in July that he was prepared to quit Ferrari before his contract



Prost's contract ended

ended. Officials of the Italian team had also been angered by Prost's remarks following the Japanese grand prix at Suzuka nine days ago, when Ayrton Senna secured the world championship for the second year running for McLaren.

Prost told reporters after the race that his Ferrari was so slow and difficult to drive it was "like a truck".

Three days before yesterday's announcement, Prost had said: "It's a dangerous game. There's still a contract. There are lawyers involved, and if I open my mouth the team can take measures immediately."

Asked what he would do if Ferrari dismissed him, Prost said: "Believe it or not, I haven't got anything planned for 1992."

Prost has won the Adelaide race twice — in 1986 and 1988 — since it became part of the circuit six years ago.

It is thought in Italian racing circles that Ferrari may have problems in signing a good substitute for Prost next year as the best drivers have already signed or extended their contracts for 1992.

The authoritative Milan daily, *Corriere della Sera*, said Senna and Gerhard Berger

will stay with McLaren-Honda, while Williams-Renault will keep the Italian-British duo of Patrese and Mansell.

The newspaper also suggested that Ivan Capelli, the Italian, may team up with Jean Alesi in 1992. Capelli, aged 28, recently left Leyton House and is free to join another team.

Minardi said in a statement later yesterday that it had replaced Morbidelli with the Brazilian driver, Roberto Moreno, at Adelaide. Pier-Luigi Martini will drive Minardi's second car.

Bertrand Gachot will drive for the Larousse team on Sunday, two weeks after being released from a British prison, team officials announced yesterday.

Gachot, 28, from Belgium, was named to replace Eric Bernard, the French driver who broke a leg during the Japanese grand prix.

Formerly with the Jordan team, Gachot served two months of an 18-month sentence after he was found guilty of assaulting a London taxi driver.

His place at Jordan was taken by Alessandro Zanardi, of Italy. (Agnecies)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

DeBerg never says die

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Kansas City Chiefs rallied from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter on Monday and beat the Los Angeles Raiders 24-21 when Tim Barnett caught a six-yard scoring pass from Steve DeBerg with 47 seconds to play.

Kansas City had trailed 21-10, but Christian Okoye scored on a one-yard run before DeBerg's winning throw. On the first play of the game, DeBerg completed the 250th pass of his 15-year professional career.

The Washington Redskins are the only unbeaten team in the National Football League (NFL) after their 17-13 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday. The Redskins earned their eighth win as the previously undefeated New Orleans Saints fell 20-17 to the Chicago Bears.

Washington trailed 13-0 at half-time but Mark Rypien threw touchdown passes of seven and 54 yards to Gary Clark in a three-minute stretch to halt a six-game losing streak against the Giants.

Jim Harbaugh, unimpressive for 58 minutes against the Saints, convinced the Chicago coach, Mike Ditka, not to bench him. He moved the Bears 52 yards in four plays and found Tim Waddle with a 12-yard toss 54 seconds from time. Morten Andersen, of New Orleans, kicked a 60-yard field goal that equalled the second longest in NFL history.

Warren Moon fired three first-half scoring passes, including a 61-yarder to Drew Hill, as the Houston Oilers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 35-3, lifting their record to seven wins and one defeat. The Bengals, 0-8, equalled the poorest start in club history. Moon, who plays in Washington against the Redskins in the biggest game on Sunday, completed 24 of 37 passes for 289 yards.

SQUASH RACKETS

Parke's England prospects falter with crucial defeat

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE opening fixtures of the Pim's Premier League season carried a significance well beyond the test established by 4-0 wins for Mosaic Priory in Birmingham, and Leekes Wizards in Surbiton.

With the world team championship in Helsinki a month away, and the England selectors committed to using form as a guideline, Simon Parke, aged 19, the No. 1 and world junior champion, could ill-afford an unconvincing performance in his first appearance for London and Provincial Lambs against North Walsham.

Parke, who transferred to Lambs from their London rivals, Vasari Cannons, after failing to agree terms with the club that brought him out of the Yorkshire League, dropped a vital point against Mark Cairns, while Peter Marshall was comprehensively defeated by Danny Meddings at second string for Leekes Wizards, and Jason Nicolle was dismissed by Robert Graham at second string for Mosaic Priory. Parke lost 9-2, 7-9, 8-10, 5-9 in 91 minutes against the dogged Cairns, ranked 15 places lower on the England list.

Gallant failure against Jahangir Khan by Chris Walker, promoted to first string for North Walsham in the absence

of the injured world champion, Rodney Martin, did little to enhance Parke's chances. Walker lost 9-6, 2-9, 5-9, 3-9 in 76 minutes. In the other London match, Del Harris and Tony Hands, two more England hopefuls, contributed victories in a 3-1 win for Cannons over Adides Northern. Bryan Beeson and Paul Gregory were the other winners for Lambs.

Cairns was an interesting selection for the Cardiff side. Transferred from Cannons between seasons, he is ranked lower on the Squash Rackets Association merit order than Philip Whitlock, another new

signing, from the Manchester Northern squad.

To have played both new men behind Chris Robertson and Marshall, however, would have necessitated the absence of the team captain, Adrian Davies, who comfortably defeated Danny Lee this week but could struggle in future fourth-string encounters against the likes of Gregory, Cairns, or his former team colleague, Mark Maclean.

The Scottish No. 1 was signed from Leekes this season by Cannons to reinforce a lower order diminished by the departures of Parke and Carter. Maclean's value to the defending champions was illustrated by his absence through injuries sustained in the Canadian Open last week. The team captain, Neil Harvey, brought in as fourth string reserve, could manage to secure only the opening game against the relatively unknown Derek Ryan.

The depth of talent which carried Cannons through many successful seasons appeared to play later in the season, when it could be costly as the season takes its usual toll of over-exercised leading players. Other squads have been assembled with more attention to the lower order.

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Head above water: Flood wants to build on new awareness of disability in sport

Optimist sees way forward

By JANE WYATT

TARA Flood is one of a new breed of young athletes hoping to make her mark not only as an international swimmer, but also as a force for change in the administration of sport for people with disabilities. The Preston woman, who now lives and works in London, believes that radical improvements are necessary to allow disabled athletes to take more responsibility for their own destinies.

Flood, aged 25, is acutely aware of the discrimination that taints all aspects of life when someone has a disability. Born with limb deficiency, she went to a special school at Haywards Heath in Sussex. "Nothing can prepare you for the shock of the real world when you have lived that kind of cotton-woolled existence," she says.

Flood, survived the hard knocks. Her irrepressible optimism made her an ideal

participant in the recent *Challenge Anneka* programme when an advertisement was made for the British Paralympic Association. "The programme put across what we are doing in a really positive way and I thought, 'Thank God, at last someone has seen the light'."

Without personalities in the headlines, Flood believes that the national governing body, leaving the disability organisation to develop the grass roots.

Her sights are set on retaining the world record she set in the 50 metres breaststroke in August, and taking a gold medal in Barcelona next year. "After that I may feel it's time to give up the personal struggle and concentrate on improving the sport for others. People like me have got to be involved in running things, because able-bodied people will never really understand us."

Having competed at international level for six years she sees swimming as well structured but amateur. "Things are beginning to change, with organisers realising that the athletes are getting serious about wanting a more professional outlook. I see a multi-disability approach as the only way forward. I'd like to see each sport working with the national governing body, leaving the disability organisation to develop the grass roots."

There has been increased media coverage which has made a big difference. Five years ago Flood could see competitive swimming dying out and suddenly there was a surge of interest. "We've got to build on that new awareness and take a more active role in running our own affairs," she says.

Having competed at inter-

national level for six years she sees swimming as well structured but amateur. "Things are beginning to change, with organisers realising that the athletes are getting serious about wanting a more professional outlook. I see a multi-disability approach as the only way forward. I'd like to see each sport working with the national governing body, leaving the disability organisation to develop the grass roots."

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RACING

Casteddu collects Redcar's big prize

PIP Payne registered the biggest success of his career and gave hope to small trainers nationwide when Casteddu won the £163,000 Raceday Gold Trophy at Redcar yesterday.

Casteddu, yet another big-mare success for Alan Munro, came with a wet sail inside the final furlong to beat Prince Ferdinand and Goffs Million winner Fair Crack another three-quarters of a length away third. "I'm absolutely delighted," Payne said. "Casteddu has been aimed at this race since Royal Ascot where he was third to Dilum in the Coventry. He's won so nicely over seven furlongs, and shown speed over six, that he'll probably go for the 2,000 Guineas. I was a bit worried about the draw, as Fair Crack and Prince Ferdinand were over the other side."

Payne, who has ten horses in his Newmarket yard, was saddling his twelfth winner of the season.

Richard Hannon, trainer of Fair Crack, Collicie Ice and Strong Suit, said: "Fair Crack ran very well. I hope he will make up into a Guineas horse next year."

Lord Zealand, the Redcar chairman, whose idea it was to launch the Raceday Gold Trophy in 1989, said: "This is a dream come true. We launched this race two years ago with the smaller yards in mind and it's fantastic that it worked out that way today."

Loki takes Lewis to jackpot

GEOFF Lewis, the Epsom trainer, landed a £104,000 jackpot when Loki, his only runner at the meeting, won the last race at Redcar yesterday.

Lewis backed himself to send out 40 winners this season in separate bets with bookmakers Victor Chandler and William Hill, at odds ranging from 33-1 to 10-1.

Loki took the stable to the magic figure with a two-length victory over Nakorn Distra in the Provident Handicap.

The entire staff at Lewis's Thirty Acre Barn yard will join in the celebrations as the trainer promised each of his team a handsome share if the bet was successful.

Paul Eddery, who partnered the winner, earlier initiated a double when driving Shake Town home by a neck from Armit in the valuable Westminster-Motor Tax Insurance Handicap.

Shake Town, owned and trained by Guy Harwood at Pulborough, now goes to the Newmarket sales.

Brent Walker pulls out of Ascot festival

BRENT Walker has ended his support of Ascot's festival of racing. The leisure group has decided to concentrate efforts on reducing its massive debt burden.

The company had a three-year contract with Ascot to sponsor the summer festival. However, a joint statement issued yesterday said: "By mutual consent the Brent Walker sponsorship at Ascot has been terminated."

"This decision reflects the commitment of Lord Kintore to concentrate all the resources of Brent Walker on the reconstruction plan and enables the Ascot Authority to seek a new long-term overall sponsor to continue to build Britain's major international race day."

Brent Walker had agreed to put £400,000 into the festival and had 12 months of the contract to run.

Injured riders on the mend

GEORGE Duffield and Andrew Tucker, injured in a pile-up in fog at Bath on Monday, are both making good recoveries and should soon be back in the saddle.

Dr Michael Allen, the Jockey Club's medical officer, visited the jockeys in Bath's Royal United Hospital yesterday and said: "Despite their injuries they were comfortable and making a satisfactory recovery. They should be able to resume racing soon."

Duffield sustained "higher back injuries" while Tucker has a broken collar-bone and concussion. Colin Munday, also involved in the accident, was allowed home from hospital on Monday night.

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Welsh sound warning for rival code

Robert Cole on the dilemma facing the Welsh in international rugby league



Davies: advancements

WALEs are back on the rugby league map. Following their scintillating return to the international fold against Papua New Guinea at Swansea on Sunday, it seems they will be allocated a match against France in the spring and considered for inclusion in the 1995 World Cup.

"We don't like one-offs, and the players themselves didn't want this game to be a flash in the pan, so a match against France in the spring is looking likely," David Howes, the Rugby Football League (RFL) press officer, said.

The Welsh coach, Clive Griffiths, wants to build up slowly, but a game against England could follow. "We have a follow year on the international front for Great Britain next season so it could fit nicely into the fixture list," Howes said.

The fact that a crowd of 11,422 turned out on a Sunday

night, only hours after the Rugby World Cup semi-final between Australia and New Zealand had finished, will no doubt have alerted the RFL to the commercial possibilities of a winning Welsh side.

"We knew the Welsh side had the ability to put on a good show and the crowd reaction to them was fantastic," Howes said.

The fall from grace of the Welsh rugby union side may have contributed to the euphoria of the victory, but the Welsh Rugby Union (WU) hierarchy at Cardiff Arms Park must be wary of any advancement by Jonathan Davies and his talented team-mates.

They put on a fine display of

running rugby that cannot be matched by their union players. And the all-round skills of the Welsh league players was of a level which would have earned nearly all inclusion in the Welsh XV. The change in, and improvement of, players such as David Young, Mark Jones, Kevin Ellis and Robert Ackerman was revealing.

As the Leeds full back, Phil Ford, the only player to have appeared for Wales at rugby league before Sunday night, put it: "We had to restore some pride to Welsh sport. We proved how much it means to play for Wales."

That they certainly did and, if France are brought to Wales to play later in the season, they could be an even bigger crowd to watch the union players of yesterday increase the stock of rugby league in their old backyard.

Reilly to look closely at under-21 players

By KEITH MACKLIN

MALCOLM Reilly, the Great Britain coach, will watch the under-21 team's match against the Papua New Guinea touring team at Headingley tonight with more interest than normal.

Martin Offiah, the Widnes wing, is out of senior contention through his dispute with the club and Paul Loughlin, the St Helens centre, who has made a successful transition from full back, and Paul Newlove, the Featherstone Rovers centre, who is playing with more zest.

Papua New Guinea remain only three players from the team beaten 68-0 by Wales.

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER-21: D. Myers (Sheffield Eagles), D. Myers (Wigan), G. Connolly (St Helens), P. Newlove (Featherstone Rovers), G. Hall (Hull), M. Pearson (Featherstone), G. Goulding (Leeds), captain, P. Sumner (Warrington), D. Dixon (Wid), G. Piers (Featherstone), D. Busby (Wid), S. McNamara (Hull), S. O'Connell (Widnes), Substitutes: M. Wynn (Cardiff), A. Prosser (Hull), N. Raftery (Huddersfield), C. Joyce (Hull), T. Wainwright (Leeds), M. Riley (St Helens), P. Bolton (Featherstone).

There are six new under-21 caps in the XIII — Hallas, Pearson, Busby, Dixon, Parr and McCurrie. The three-quarters in the frame for senior selection are David Myers, the

Wigan wing, Gary Connolly, the St Helens centre, who has made a successful transition from full back, and Paul Newlove, the Featherstone Rovers centre, who is playing with more zest.

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Style trial makes for a fascinating match-up



Winterbottom: errors

We have two worthy finalists for the 1991 Rugby World Cup. At the highest level, individuals and teams do not get what they deserve but what they are good enough to take. Australia and England took their chances — and themselves — to the final of the World Cup.

They did it in very different ways, which were as much an indication of their attitudes to themselves as an indication of the relative strengths of the teams. England believe in their ability to win; Australia believe in their ability to play great rugby.

England began their match with Scotland in a most positive manner. They did not, as many pundits thought, play the whole match through their forwards. They began by moving the ball into the midfield where Carling, in particular, was charged with breaking the first line and setting

up a ruck from which the ball would be moved quickly wide. Alas, Peter Winterbottom mis-handled the first two times he was asked to take the ball on from the initial burst by Carling and there died England's attempt at continuity.

In the end, it was simply a case of Scotland the Brave versus England the Big.

Scotland's attempt to keep the ball away from the touchlines, and to play at an unflagging pace, foundered on the rock of their own inaccuracies. If only they hadn't held the ball at the back of scrums; if only they hadn't taken on the England back row with set-piece moves close to the scrum; if only they had been able to recover their high kicks and eliminate handling errors.

All of these "if onlys" add up to a Herculean task and one I can never remember having been



David Kirk, captain of the 1987 World Cup winning All Blacks, weighs the strengths of the teams that have reached this year's final

achieved at international level. Teams which are beaten soundly in the scrums and lineouts, and which are therefore forced to try to play breakneck rugby with no errors, do not win international rugby matches. Scotland came close to doing so and that is a measure of their quality.

After England's initial foray into midfield, which produced some promising openings that came to nothing, Scotland kicked two penalties and wrested the initiative for perhaps 20 minutes of the match. As the second half progressed, however, the pendulum swung back towards England

and it was then, as they reasserted their dominance in the lineout, that their courage and belief in the type of rugby they are capable of playing failed them.

At 6-6, and with the lineout and scrum secure, the next step in the evolution of this England team was there to be taken. I fear they have missed the opportunity forever. If England lose the final on Saturday, and I believe they will, it will have been lost when their courage failed them in the second half at Murrayfield.

Australia produced the outstanding performance of the tournament in unceremoniously

shunting New Zealand to one side. Throughout the first half they played almost faultless rugby, winning the best set-piece ball and passing, handling and judging impeccably.

When one strikes a team running hot like this, the only thing that can be done is to keep cool, to never admit defeat and to wait for the tide to turn. This the All Blacks did admirably.

There were minor mistakes by New Zealand in both Australian tries but they were very minor; the execution was simply too good to be stopped by anyone. And so it went on, neither side making any significant mistakes at all and both sides tackling their hearts out.

As many had expected for some time, the difference was in hunger and pace. And another factor, perhaps surprisingly on the day, was a lack of inventiveness and

penetration from the All Black backs. Throughout the second half, they asked again and again one single question of the Australians: "Are you prepared to tackle us?" The answer was clearly "yes", and they did.

The questions they were never asked were: "Which direction is the ball going?" and "who is going to get the ball after this move?" Or, "who should I take?" Pushing the ball to the wings against a drifting defence, and without the pace of Wright and Jones, was never going to be enough.

But then perhaps nothing was. It was undoubtedly Australia's day. From the first, they played like men who believed in their skill and their game plan and who accepted that scoring points was nothing more than the logical extension of playing great rugby. That to me is the attitude of world champions.

Jones returns to bolster All Blacks

Scottish duo have chance to bow out on a high note

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh may not be in the mood to appreciate it but they have the opportunity today to pay tribute to some distinguished rugby careers: the third-place play-off match of the World Cup at Cardiff Arms Park may mark the last international of half a dozen players from New Zealand and Scotland, players whose records deserve more than a rudimentary nod from a half-full stadium.

Finlay Calder and John Jeffrey, the Scotland flankers, have already made their intentions clear. Both came desperately close to achieving the ambition of a lifetime for any Scot, when they came within three points of beating the All Blacks in Auckland last year, but in 15 encounters Scotland have yet to record a victory. Both would dearly love to go out such a high note.

No New Zealander has yet declared his hand but rumour has it that such players as the Whetton brothers, Andy Earl and Richard Lee may be pondering retirement. Alan Whetton, the flanker whose career began in 1984 and who will be 32 in December, was among those not required for today's game as the New Zealand management made six changes from the XV beaten 16-6 by Australia in Sunday's semi-final.

His place goes to Earl while Michael Jones, unavailable for New Zealand's last three matches because of his religious beliefs, returns on the other flank. It was Jones who scored the first try of the tournament, that condemned England to defeat in the opening match on October 3, and it is a measure of his standing that the All Blacks were prepared to select him in the knowledge that he could miss several critical games.

Kieran Crowley, late addition to the party, gives away at full back to Terry Wright, whose recovery from a hamstring injury came just too late for his place to be used against Australia. There are three further changes in the back

Scotland			New Zealand		
A G Hastings	15	Full back	T J Wright	15	
A G Stanger	14	Right wing	J J Kirwan	14	
S Hastings	13	Centre	G R Innes	13	
S R P Lineen	12	Centre	W K Little	12	
I Tukalo	11	Left wing	V L Tugamala	11	
C M Chalmers	10	Stand-off	J Preston	10	
G Armstrong	9	Scrum half	G T M Bachop	9	
D M B Sole	1	Prop	S C McDowell	1	
J Allan	2	Hooker	S B T Fitzpatrick	2	
A P Burnell	3	Prop	R W Lee	3	
J Jeffrey	6	Flanker	A T Earl	6	
C A Gray	4	Lock	I D Jones	4	
G W Weir	5	Lock	G W Weston	5	
F Calder	7	Flanker	M N Jones	7	
D B White	8	No. 8	Z V Brooke	8	

Referee: S Hilditch (Ireland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P W Dods (Gale), 17 A G Stiel (McGee), 18 G H Oliver (Hewitt), 19 G R Marshall (Sellick), 20 A G J Watt (Graham), 21 K S Milne (Hart's FF).

division, all caused by injuries to John Timu (thigh), Bernie McCahill (hamstring) and Grant Fox (groin); their places at wing, centre and stand-off half respectively go to Va'aiga Tugamala, Walter Little and John Preston.

You have seen an All Black team coming to the end of its time, John Hart, their co-coach, said. Hart will surely be among those considered as coach when the New Zealand council decide on new office holders for their centenary season next year. Lane Penn, one of their three selectors, is not standing again and Alex Wylie, their other coach, is expected to retire, having indicated his belief that coaches should be appointed for four-year periods.

"We were hoping we could get through this tournament and then make changes," Hart added. "We came up against an Australian team that was

young and coming up while we were on our way down. This [today's game] is now a character test for the All Blacks. Scotland have got everything to play for and they probably don't mind being here because they have had a very good tournament. But it would be wrong for this team to be remembered for one defeat, and not for what it is and what it has achieved."

Wylie said it was an opportunity for younger players seeking to cement places in All Black teams of the future. "This is a new challenge. We hope we can play enjoyable rugby for the crowd and it looks as though the Scots are taking it seriously," he said. No New Zealand team has lost at Cardiff since 1973: if today's game can match the quality of that encounter — against the Barbarians, Gareth Edwards et al — it would be a wonderful way to go.



Happy faces: David Campese, Australia's inspirational wing, is at the centre of a gathering during training at Sumbury yesterday as the players show their delight at reaching the Rugby World Cup final. Report, page 40

WORLD CUP PROGRAMME

Pool 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Zealand	3	0	0	0	95	33	9
England	3	2	0	1	185	33	7
Italy	3	1	0	2	257	76	5
US	3	0	0	3	324	113	3

RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 18; Italy 30, United States 5; New Zealand 46, United States 8; England 36, Italy 8; England 37, United States 9; New Zealand 31, Italy 21.

Pool 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Scotland	3	3	0	0	122	36	9	
Ireland	3	2	0	1	110	51	7	
Japan	3	2	0	2	77	81	5	
Zimbabwe	3	0	0	3	2	77	81	5

RESULTS: Scotland 47, Japan 9; Ireland 55, Zimbabwe 11; Ireland 32, Japan 16; Scotland 51, Zimbabwe 12; Scotland 24, Ireland 15; Zimbabwe 8, Japan 52.

Pool 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	79	25	9
W Samoa	3	2	0	1	54	34	7
Wales	3	2	0	1	23	61	7
Argentina	3	0	0	3	36	83	3

RESULTS: Australia 32, Argentina 19; Wales 13, Western Samoa 16; Australia 9, Western Samoa 3; Wales 16, Argentina 7; Wales 3, Australia 35; Argentina 12, Western Samoa 35.

RESULTS: Australia 32, Argentina 19; Wales 13, Western Samoa 16; Australia 9, Western Samoa 3; Wales 16, Argentina 7; Wales 3, Australia 35; Argentina 12, Western Samoa 35.

Pool 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
France	3	3	0	0	82	25	9	
Canada	3	2	0	1	145	33	7	
Romania	3	1	0	2	231	84	5	
Fiji	3	0	0	3	2	57	83	5

RESULTS: France 30, Romania 3; Fiji 15, Canada 13; France 33, Fiji 9; Canada 19, Romania 11; Romania 17, Fiji 15; France 19, Canada 13.

□ Teams in pool matches were awarded three points for a victory, two for a draw and 1 deducted, one for forfeiting the fixture.

Quarter-finals

	Scotland 28	Western Samoa 6
	(at Murrayfield)	

	France 10	England 19
	(in Paris)	
	Australia 19	Ireland 18
	(in Dublin)	

New Zealand 28

(in Lille)

Canada 13

Semi-finals

Scotland 6

(at Murrayfield)

England 9

Australia 16

(in Dublin)

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: Today: Scotland v New Zealand (at Cardiff, 5.30pm)

FINAL: Nov 2: England v Australia (at Twickenham, 2.30pm)

LEADING SCORERS: Tries: 6: D Campese (Aus), J-B Lalor (Fr); 4: T Moran (Aus), B Robinson (enr), I Tukalo (Aus), J Underwood (Eng); 3: T Wright (NZ), M Taran (J), Y Yoshida (Jen), A Stanger (Scot), J Timu (NZ).

Points: 68: R Keyes (enr), 58: M Lynch (Aus), 55: G Hastings (Scot), 53: J Webb (eng), 4: H Goff (NZ), 32:

D Camberberg (Fr), 28: T Hosokawa (Japan), D Dominguez (R), 25: M Vase (W Samoa), 17: C Depierre (Aus), Lafont (Fr), G Rees (Can).

The winners of the Heinz fair play award will be selected by the referee assessors, who may take into account incidents not punished by a referee.

Foul play, dissent and off-the-ball incidents are key factors in assessing the award, as are the number of penalties awarded against teams in the earlier stages of the tournament. Dismissal, drop abuse or misconduct off the field will result in disqualification. Western Samoa and Argentina have been disqualified for having a player sent off.

Today: TV: 2.25-4pm: Live coverage of the Scotland v New Zealand place play-off match from Cardiff. 11.35pm-12.30am: Screensport: 2.0-4.00pm: Live coverage from Cardiff. High scores: 9.30-10.30pm.

S Africa's World Cup hopes brighten

By DAVID HANDS

THE venue for the 1995 World Cup has yet to be decided, but those who would award it to South Africa may have derived encouragement from Monday's meeting in Johannesburg: Nelson Mandela, deputy leader of the African National Congress, met representatives of the South African Rugby Board (SARB) and the South African Rugby Union (SARU) and there was a general endorsement of the aim to establish a unified, non-racial governing body for rugby by Christmas.

Danie Craven, the SARB president who attended the meeting, said the progress of the unification talks was discussed "in a good spirit". He added: "I think Mr Mandela realised he had to attend to the matter. He will help get it done, and quickly. Everything must be finished by the end of the year."

Were that to be the case, it would be considerably easier for the International Rugby Football Board to discuss the 1995 World Cup venue when it holds its annual meeting in March. Until the board is assured of the proper implementation of the newly-constituted body, however, plans for tours to and from South Africa will remain in abeyance.

Nonetheless Australia and New Zealand have extended an invitation for a South African representative to attend their next joint meeting, in Sydney in February — an occasion in which Argentina has also expressed an interest, which suggests that some form of southern-hemisphere championship may be debated informally.

Australia also has in mind the possibility of playing three provincial matches and an international in South Africa on their way to Ireland and Wales next autumn. Were they to arrive as holders of the World Cup, they would receive a rapturous welcome in South Africa.

Craven, speaking from Stellenbosch, voiced his regret that the present World Cup was too soon for his country: "When I watch it I feel like crying — to see the game and to know that our boys are there. However several Springboks are watching the tournament at first hand, among them Naas Botha, the Northern Transvaal stand-off, who was in Dublin to see his team beat New Zealand. "That was a match one sees only once in many years," Craven said, but in general he has not been impressed by what he described as "kick-and-rugby". That's not rugby, he said. "That's not rugby. The Wallabies deviate from it and that's why they're successful."

EQUESTRIANISM

Horse trials bring in suspension for falls

By JENNY MACARTHUR

STRINGENT new medical rules have brought the sport of horse trials into line with the Jockey Club.

From next year, any rider who has a serious fall at an event will be suspended and given a horse trials medical suspension card. In order to compete again the rider must give clearance from his doctor.

The ruling, which was announced at the horse trials annual group conference at Lord's yesterday, follows Susan Macaire's fall at Gatcombe Park last year. Macaire, who was short-listed for the British team, had been knocked out and sprung her collarbone at Damissey horse trials a fortnight before. Told that only riders who competed at Gatcombe would be considered for the team, Macaire bravely rode her horse, Master Marius, at Gatcombe, but fell, injuring herself and her horse.

The Horse Trials Group reported a deficit of £55,000 this year. This was largely due to running the Windsor Horse Trials without a main sponsor, at a cost of £50,000. The group's reserves now stand at £444,000, and members' subscriptions and horse registrations have been increased.

The sport noted a record number of entries — 46,230 — in last year's 160 events, which included nine three-day events. The international team had considerable success. The pony, junior and senior teams all won gold medals at their respective European championships.

One event organiser, Hamish Lochore, protested yesterday against the rule that an organiser wishing to exceed the official "band" of prize-money must pay a levy from his event to central funds. Unmoved, John Tulloch, the group chairman, said: "We are very reluctant to set a system where the strong events go forward and the weak stay the same."

Negotiations by the group for the purchase of the lease of Tweseldown racecourse, where the Crookham horse trials are held, are at an advanced stage.

HORSE TRIAL GROUP AWARDS: Tony Collins Memorial Trophy: R Powell, Calcutta Light Horse Trophy: R Powell, Mottisham Memorial Trophy: Mrs M. Kiley (winner of Lady Evelyn), Eddy Goldsmith Trophy: K. Gilford, Martin Whitley Trophy: O. Morris, Sir John Burder Trophy: L. Brown, Beehive Trophy: S Thompson.

Cliff Audi Blenheim international three-day event has been brought forward to September 4 to 6 next year.

TENNIS

Wainwright strolls through

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

BEARING in mind the less than flattering comments made about British juniors by Jo Durie last week, Amanda Wainwright enjoyed a startling victory over Belinda Borneo in the second round of the national championships, the first to be held under the Volkswagen banner.

Wainwright, a boony, well-built 15-year-old from Essex, did not just beat the No. 10 seed, she annihilated her, 6-1, with a gusto which augurs rather better for the future than the British No. 1 had indicated last week in Brighton.

"Where are all the children?" Durie had asked in painting a gloomy picture of the state of the art. Rather closer to home than she anticipated, it seems, Wainwright is part of the same stable as Durie.

Both are coached by Alan Jones and they frequently practise together, at least when Wainwright can find the time. Besides being the national under-16 champion, Wainwright represents her county at hockey, is a useful netball player and, following in the footsteps of her mother, who once was fourth in the world at the discipline, is a talented hurdler. If that was not enough, she gained an A in GCSE English a year early and will be staying on

at school until she is 18, by which time, according to traditional theory, it will be too late to begin a serious career in professional tennis.

Not many have the dual talents of the Wimbledon champion, Michael Stich, who gained a place at university before turning to tennis full-time. Sarah Loomerose, the former national champion, who is now pursuing her studies in psychology at St Hilda's in Oxford, is the more likely example.

"I made no unforced errors. I just went out to attack her and she couldn't do anything about it," Wainwright said.

Durie began the defence of her title comfortably enough, beating Lucy Needham for the loss of just two games, and Jeremy Bates, also protecting his place as British champion, could not have enjoyed a better start.

He won 6-0, 7-5 against Simon Leckie, the Yorkshireman, who wasted six match points against him in the nationals six years ago.

RESULTS: Men: Singles: First round: S Leckie (York) bt V Rennie (Essex), 6-3, 7-5; A Bates (Cheshire) bt S Bates (Middlesex), 6-3, 6-4; G Henderson (York) bt J Morgan (Sussex), 6-4, 6-2; J Hunter (Sussex) bt P A Robinson (Trent), 6-4, 6-2; D Williams (Essex) bt A Morgan (North), 6-4, 6-2; J Jones (Wales) bt J Haycock (Sussex), 6-4, 6-2; S Bamber (Kent) bt D Collins (Devon), 6-4, 7-5; Second round: J Bates (Sussex) bt S Leckie (York), 6-0, 7-5; J Lenton (Essex) bt M Bamber (Kent), 6-2, 6-4; J Wainwright (Essex) bt J Hunter (Sussex), 6-3, 6-8.

Women: Singles: Second round: S Smith (Essex) bt T Wainwright (Wiltshire), 6-1, 6-4; V Humphreys (Devon) bt V Irvine (Essex), 6-0, 6-4; A Wainwright (Essex) bt S Bamber (Kent), 6-1, 6-4; C Wood (Sussex) bt J Jones (Wales), 6-3, 6-4; J Wainwright (Essex) bt J Bates (Sussex), 6-4, 7-5; J Lenton (Essex) bt M Bamber (Kent), 6-2, 6-4; J Wainwright (Essex) bt J Hunter (Sussex), 6-3, 6-8.

Borneo: heavy defeat

Umpires are opposed to neutral panel

ENGLISH umpires will stand firm if Pakistan ask for neutral officials to be used in their five-Test series in England next summer. They remain opposed to the principle of an international panel.

Don Oslar, the chairman of England's first-class umpires, said yesterday: "I have feared for some time there will be an independent panel of umpires. I am attending a meeting at Lord's tomorrow at which the matter will be discussed and I shall remind the board of the unanimous proposal adopted by all English umpires at our meeting 12 months ago."

"The proposal says 'our body does not wish to be associated with the international panel, as this is detrimental to English cricket in general, and that this be supported by the TCCB by voting against the proposal at any ICC meeting'."

The TCCB spokesman, Peter Smith, said: "As there is a distinct possibility the ICC will have found a sponsor for a neutral panel of Test umpires before the start of the 1992 English season, we are waiting to see how that progresses before making any alternative arrangements."

CRICKET

South Africa receive Sharjah invitation

OVERSEAS CRICKET by SIMON WILDE

THE World Cup is unlikely to be the only tournament South Africa play in this winter. They have also been asked to play in the triangular Champions Trophy at Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, in April.

South Africa received the invitation from Asif Iqbal, the former Pakistan Test batsman and Sharjah's organiser, before the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in the Gulf state last week, arranged to decide on the Republic's participation in the World Cup.

South Africa are almost certain to accept but their decision may not be known until the delegation they sent to Sharjah returns from a series of meetings in Asia, which should produce provisional dates for several further tours and lead to some prominent Indians and Pakistanis playing in the Currie Cup in the near future.

South Africa's opponents in Sharjah have not been confirmed but are expected to be Australia and New Zealand. A report in the Johannesburg Star that England had been invited was yesterday refuted by the Test and County Cricket Board. With the World Cup ending in Melbourne on March 25 and the English season beginning three

weeks later, there would scarcely be time for England to be involved, even if that was what they wanted.

Meanwhile, preparations continue in South Africa for their return. Plans to build a new main grandstand at the Wanderers, Johannesburg, to raise the capacity to 32,000 have been brought forward in an attempt to complete the 25 million rand project in time for what will now be a full Test tour by India from October to December next year.

Sri Lanka yesterday offered to tour India in place of Pakistan, whose visit was cancelled on Hindu militants to sabotage a match in Bombay.

New South Wales, not traditionally a strong side at the one-day game, won Australia's state limited-overs competition for only the third time in 23 years when they beat Western Australia in Perth at the weekend. In a low-scoring match New South Wales comfortably defended a total of 199 for nine overs for 130. The only player to exceed 50 was Western Australia's Damien Martyn, who last summer captained Australia's Under-19 team in England, with 54.

THE FINIS JAMESO Irish Whiskey WORLD CUP RESULTS SERVICE



Handling skill: Andrew plays with daughter, Emily, in the pool at their Lincolnshire retreat

Factors that give Wallabies an edge

Of all the players in the England squad in the Rugby World Cup, I suppose no one knows the Australians better than I do. I spent six months in Sydney a few years back playing for the Gordon club and I quickly came to realise what makes Australian sportsmen tick. I found it quite different to anything I had been used to in my rugby career which had embraced Cambridge University and Wasps.

The thread which runs through all Australian sports is the competitive edge. Everything from schoolboy level upwards is organised and arranged in leagues. You will find an under-14 fifth team playing in a league: it is so competitive from top to bottom.

It is arranged so that it would be like Wasps' first, second, third, fourth and fifth teams playing their direct opponents from the Bath club. There is no such thing as friendly rugby out there and I can perfectly well understand why the Wallabies have been able to

match the high standards set over the years by the All Blacks.

Since 1984, the Australians have also been blessed with some very talented, tremendously skilful players. When you combine that with their competitive levels and fitness standards, it is not difficult to see why they have been the only team to match up to the New Zealanders. Now they have probably overtaken the All Blacks — an enormous achievement.

All the great teams have these qualities: high skills, fitness and total commitment. Take out just one of those qualities and it is next to impossible to become a side of the absolute highest merit. The game today demands all these qualities.

I found living and playing in Sydney a delight. It really is so different to being in Britain. The moment you wake up, you have the feeling that you want to get going, training, running or whatever it is. Of course, the climate is an integral part of all this. Even in



Three days before the Rugby World Cup final at Twickenham, the England stand-off half, Rob Andrew, examines Australia's rugby roots

winter, it is usually quite pleasant.

I don't believe that I once wore a tracksuit for evening training in the winter. It was just shorts and socks. In the English winter, you sometimes have to wear two tracksuits to stay warm — and that makes a big difference to not only the quality of your training but the duration.

In Sydney, I found I was staying out longer for training and the conditions were always better for practising your skills. In other words, the conditions in Australia provide a significant advantage.

I found Australia physically much tougher. The training techniques were not necessarily world-shattering but people just trained harder. There was a lot

of competition, they tend to burn out at an early age. In Britain, players go on longer because they have not had that great competitive involvement, but I expect this to change in the next generation.

Talking of which, I said goodbye last night to my 16-month-old daughter, Emily, together with my wife, Sara, as we headed off to our base at a Surrey hotel to prepare for Saturday. It was a delightful short break in Lincolnshire with our families. Six of the England players have baby daughters, so there was a nice family atmosphere. A lovely change from the intense level of rugby.

But now the pace is quickening and we can see the large stands of Twickenham from our hotel room windows. Our concentration and our preparation are building up for what will undoubtedly be the most important game of rugby all of us have ever played.

□ Interview by Peter Bills.

Size may count against Australian forwards

Calder considers England the best bet for final

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND, who arrived in London last night to begin the final phase of their quest for rugby union's World Cup, received at the same time support from a player who has been a thorn in their side — or perhaps a thistle underfoot — for the last five years: Finlay Calder, the 1989 British Isles captain.

Calder played in the back row of the Scottish side beaten 9-6 by England at Murrayfield last Saturday and today plays in his 34th and last international, against New Zealand in the third-place play-off match at Cardiff. Having returned from retirement for the World Cup, he will return to club rugby after his fourth encounter with the All Blacks.

It is his belief that England will beat Australia at Twickenham in Saturday's final and lift the Webb Ellis Cup. "I think England will win because the Australian pack will not be mature enough to



RUGBY WORLD CUP

handle them," he said in Bristol, where Scotland trained yesterday.

His opinion, contrary to those of many who see the Wallabies' fluid style and success over New Zealand last Sunday as a springboard to victory, is based on his knowledge of the England forwards who helped the Lions to a 2-1 series success against Australia two years ago.

Though Dean Richards, so formidable a figure on that tour, has since been relegated to the England replacements, four of the forwards remain — Brian Moore, Wade Dooley, Paul Ackford and Mike

Teague. "The crucial area is the lineout and Ackford and Dooley will make the Australians struggle," Calder said.

"I don't think McCall, Eales and Coker are bulky enough to knock England out of the lineout contest. They may still do what they did against the All Blacks and use Eales at the tail but England are so good on their own ball I can't see Australia upsetting them."

"The England forwards will play it as the Lions did in 1989. They will grind Australia down and they will win." In fact, New Zealand won more lineout ball than Australia in Dublin on Sunday but Bob Dwyer, the Wallabies coach, expressed satisfaction with Troy Coker, preferred at No. 8 and likely to be included when the team for the final is named today.

"He made a significant contribution and will gain in confidence from it," he said. "Maybe the consistency of football in this World Cup has brought the best out of him."

Coker has had a chequered career since he was first capped during the 1987 tournament, caused partly by his prolonged stay in England studying at Oxford University, but he settled last season into the Harlequins team — ironically — as Ackford's regular second-row partner.

Calder also expressed his lack of comprehension at the criticism of England's methods. "There were 14 other teams in the World Cup who would love to have been in the final at Twickenham," he said.

"If those others had possessed the same artillery as England have at their disposal, I'm sure they would have used it in the same way. We Scots would have been more than happy with a three-point win at Murrayfield last Saturday, I can tell you."

Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said: "People can say what they like. We know that we are in the final and we have the statistics to show that we are moving the ball at a normal rate for international rugby. We know that the whole country is behind us."

Roger Uttley, the England coach, arrived in London ahead of the party yesterday to receive his OBE at Buckingham Palace.

Kirk's view, page 38
Cardiff preview, page 38

Boost for the game

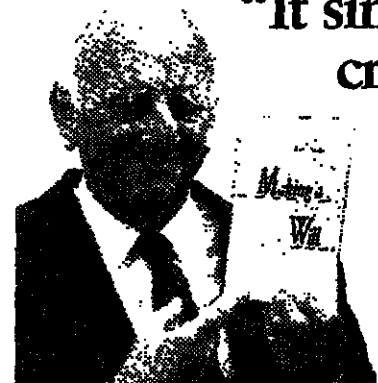
NICK Farr-Jones, the Australian captain, said yesterday that victory for his side in the World Cup final against England on Saturday could lead to a serious dent in the popularity of rugby league in Australia (Peter Bills writes).

The success of Australia has created considerable interest at home, with even non-rugby states achieving large viewing figures for the live telecasts of the Australian matches.

Farr-Jones said: "We are trying to make advances and, certainly, to make it more financially possible for the guys in this Australian team to resist the temptations of rugby league offers. It is my considered opinion that none of the guys will go to league."

"The attention this World Cup has created is tremendous for our game," he said.

Photograph, page 38



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Taking stock: Eubank with the trophy for the best bout of the year

Eubank remains uncertain

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank, the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, is still not sure whether he will stay in boxing. He said yesterday he was too worried about Michael Watson, who suffered brain damage in a bout with him last month, to think about his own career.

"I never thought I could inflict such damage on an opponent," he said. "I still haven't come to terms with it. Without question it has changed me. It makes me think whether I can go on with a sport like this."

Eubank is expected to have a clearer idea of his position after returning from a holiday in the United States. He said: "It has been a very difficult time for me. It's a time for taking stock. I am waiting to see his [Watson's] progress."

Eubank was talking in London after receiving the British Boxing Board of Control's award for his bout with Nigel Benn, which was voted the best bout of the year.

Dave McAuley, of Northern Ireland, received the award for the best boxer. McAuley, the International Boxing Federa-

tion flyweight champion, has boxed in eight world championships. McAuley won the world title in 1989 and has defended it a record five times.

The award for services to boxing went to Muhammad Ali. It was received on the great man's behalf by Duke McKenzie, the WBO bantamweight champion.

Wally Swift, the British light-middleweight champion, took the sportsmanship award and Donovan Boucher, of Canada, was voted best overseas boxer.

London police ban altered kick-off times

By LOUISE TAYLOR

LONDON football followers without videos, or who feel compelled to watch the Rugby World Cup final live on television, face a dilemma on Saturday. With the Metropolitan Police refusing to move any of the 3pm League kick-off times in the capital to the morning, many supporters will be strongly tempted to swap their spot on the terraces for a seat in the armchair.

Accordingly, there are likely to be spaces in the crowd at Highbury — where Arsenal play West Ham United, Selhurst Park — where Wimbledon face Leeds United, The Den — which hosts Millwall versus Portsmouth, and Brisbane Road — the venue for Leyton Orient's meeting with Exeter City.

Seventeen League clubs attracted their lowest crowds of the season last Saturday when their games kicked off half an hour after the start of England's rugby semi-final in Scotland, and they wish to avert further financial hardship.

The Football League has said it will sanction any kick-off time from 11am, but clubs have to win the agreement of local police, and regional forces have proved more flexible than the Metropolitan Police.

Ten fixtures have already been switched, and Eddie Plumley, the chief executive of Watford, who face an 11.30am start at Sunderland, said: "The League has been absolutely inundated with inquiries. The whole world and his wife have woken up to the fact England are playing on Saturday."

Plumley said: "It now means that our supporters will have to set out at 5am, but we still expect 300 or 400 diehards to make the trip to Roker Park. The team will travel to Sunderland on Friday, and return by coach after the match. But there is no television on the coach and we have no plans to install one just to watch the rugby."

Geoff Davidson, the Sunderland secretary, said: "Whatever you do, someone says it is wrong, and we just hope the supporters will accept our kick-off switch. We have agreed to give Watford supporters a third off the admission price in order to compensate them for the early departure."

REARRANGED KICK-OFFS: First division: Coventry City v Chelsea (11.30); Second division: Bristol Rovers v Port Vale (12.30); Oxford United v Barnley (11.30); Sunderland v Watford (11.30); Third division: Birmingham City v Torquay United (12.30); Bradford City v Brentford (12.00); Darlington v Hartlepool United (12.00); Fourth division: Blackpool v Scarborough (12.00); Lincoln City v Altrincham (11.00); Macclesfield Town v Doncaster Rovers (11.30).

Townsend to have hernia operation

THE Republic of Ireland midfielder, Andy Townsend, is out of the vital European championship qualifying match against Turkey in Istanbul on November 13. The Chelsea captain will have a hernia operation today and is expected to be out of action until the new year.

Townsend played in Chelsea's goalless draw with Crystal Palace on Saturday, despite the injury, but after seeing a specialist yesterday was recommended for surgery, which is expected to rule him out for six to eight weeks.

Chelsea's managing director, Colin Hutchinson, said: "We just want to get on with it and get him fit again as soon as possible. He has been carrying the injury for some time now and it's a blow for us."

The Irish have to beat Turkey to stand any chance of qualifying for the finals in Sweden next summer.

Townsend will also miss important pre-Christmas League games against Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry City, among others.

Chelsea's central defender, Jason Cundy, has signed a new contract, keeping him at Stamford Bridge until June 1995.



Townsend: long absence

Doyle looks past the hazards of a testing task

By PATRICIA DAVIES

ANDREA Doyle, the new executive director of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET), dismisses suggestions that her lack of background in the sport is a hindrance. "I don't think it's rocket science," she said at the WPGET headquarters at Tytherington, near Macclesfield. "and I don't think I'm of subnormal intelligence."

"Of course, I've got reference books, but I've also got a good team. If you want to

run everything, get a corner shop. As Alan Sugar said when he took over Tottenham [Hotspur], 'I don't know anything about football, I'm here to run a company'. That's the way I feel," she added.

Doyle is right, of course, to emphasise that at least she came to the job with no preconceived ideas and no history that golfers could relate to, either to praise or criticise. She must be taken entirely on her merits.

In keeping with the efficient, go-getting image she and the tour wish her to

present, Doyle was reluctant to talk about the past. Perhaps wisely, she showed no inclination to comment on the shambolic handling of her appointment and the, at best, grossly insensitive ousting of Joe Flanagan, her predecessor. Flanagan had certainly lost the confidence of his members but he was due to retire at the end of November. Instead, last month, a letter from Janice Arnold, the WPGET chairman, informed him that he was dismissed.

So Doyle, who works for a company in both financial and

travel areas, most recently as European business development manager, is now in sole charge.

"We have to consolidate what we've already got," she said, "and build on that. Next year will be extremely difficult but there is great potential."

Charlie Brown once said, "nothing weighs you down as much as great potential", but Doyle's job is essentially clear-cut. She must sell the tour, persuade sponsors that women's golf is worth backing and persuade the public that it is worth watching.

She aims to raise the tour's profile (the present image struck her as "non-existent") and she is pleased with the raw material she has to work with.

"The players are great," she said. "They work very hard, practise well and look good. I want us to work as a team, to push the tour forwards."

A practical, down-to-earth Yorkshirewoman in her forties, Doyle looks and sounds as though she will stand no nonsense. She has the air of someone who will run a tight ship. "Bossy" was someone's rather unkind summation.

Someone else might have used "authoritative".

As a whole, the players' initial comments have been approving, and even the caddies are enthusiastic. They will all remain that way only if Doyle comes up with more tournaments and more money. She must hope they allow her the time to achieve that. While her ship may be wallowing rather than sinking, the new skipper needs all hands on the pumps — now.
